Poultry and Egg Situation

Economic Research Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

PES-293

March 1977

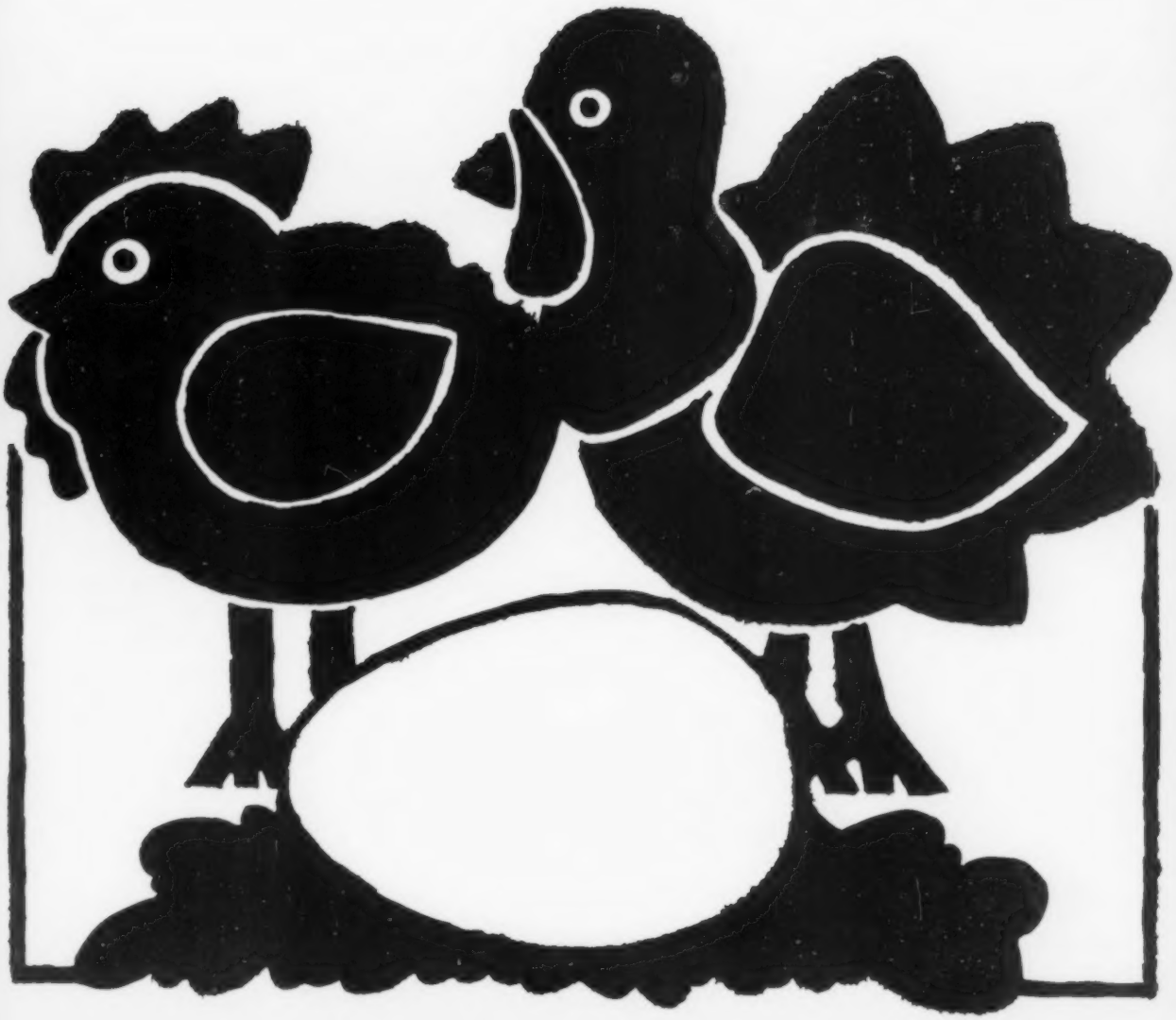

Table 1—Poultry and Egg Situation at a Glance

Item	Unit	1975-76				1976-77			
		Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
		Eggs							
Farm production	Mil. doz.	443.2	459.8	461.0	432.8	443.3	462.2	456.0	
Average number of layers on farms	Mil.	279	280	281	280	279	281	280	
Rate of lay per layer	No.	19.0	19.7	19.7	18.6	19.0	19.7	19.6	
Price received by farmers	Ct. per doz.	58.2	64.1	62.2	59.8	65.3	69.5	65.1	
14 Metro areas price Grade A large	Ct. per doz.	69.1	75.8	73.3	67.4	76.7	82.5	78.7	
Retail price (BLS) Grade A large	Ct. per doz.	78.1	86.1	89.1	90.1	87.3	94.6	96.7	
Price paid for laying feed	Dol. per ton	143	143	143	143	151	153	156	
Egg-feed price ratio	Pounds	8.1	9.0	8.7	8.4	8.6	9.1	8.3	
Stocks, first of month:									
Shell	Thous. cases	55	40	22	14	34	25	28	23
Frozen	Mil. lb.	46.6	42.2	36.3	31.7	29.7	25.5	26.1	26.4
Replacement chicks hatched	Mil.	28.4	30.7	35.7	39.2	36.1	36.1	40.2	
		Poultry							
Federally inspected slaughter, cert.									
Broilers	Mil. lb.	560.7	691.4	712.3	622.3	699.2	716.8	713.8	
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	220.2	157.5	76.3	61.7	261.5	146.4	70.5	
Price at farm, live weight									
Broilers	Ct. per lb.	27.0	24.0	24.3	25.2	19.3	19.3	21.5	41.9
Turkeys	Ct. per lb.	36.7	36.2	33.6	32.1	30.8	33.3	32.4	
9-city wholesale broiler price	Ct. per lb.	45.8	41.8	41.9	42.7	34.9	35.0	38.8	
Retail price (BLS)									
Broilers	Ct. per lb.	66.5	65.5	63.6	61.4	54.4	54.3	54.6	
Turkeys	Ct. per lb.	77.4	75.8	76.6	75.0	71.9	7.04	70.0	
Broiler-feed price	Dol. per ton	158	160	158	160	169	174	174	
Broiler-feed price ratio	Pounds	3.4	3.0	3.1	3.2	2.3	2.2	2.5	
Turkey-feed price	Dol. per lb.	164	165	165	165	177	179	182	
Turkey-feed price ratio	Pounds	4.5	4.4	4.1	3.9	3.5	3.7	3.6	
Stocks, first of month:									
Broilers, fryers, roasters	Mil. lb.	21.9	21.5	22.3	20.2	24.3	29.1	32.9	28.9
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	472.4	286.2	195.2	186.8	509.0	299.0	203.4	193.0
Total poultry	Mil. lb.	599.8	405.9	313.6	296.1	664.0	452.9	362.8	340.7
Average weekly placement of broiler chicks in 21 States	Mil.	56.9	58.5	60.2	61.5	59.3	61.2	63.6	

[1] Discontinued June 1976.

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Approved by
The Outlook and Situation Board
and Summary released
March 1, 1977

SUMMARY

Broiler output is running above year-earlier levels and is expected to do so throughout 1977. Broiler prices may show some weakness this spring before rising seasonally this summer to near year-earlier levels. Egg and turkey output are trailing 1976 but should move back above in coming months. Egg prices will drop seasonally in the spring and could average below 1976 this summer.

Production costs for poultry and eggs likely will run near current levels this spring and into early summer. However, they will be influenced by development of 1977 corn and soybean crop prospects and impacts on feed prices.

A growing economy with continued gains in consumers' disposable incomes and more people with jobs will increase the demand for meats. Total red meat supplies during the first half of 1977 will slip from second half 1976, but exceed year-earlier levels by about 5 percent. Continued large beef supplies will be supplemented by big gains in pork output. However, red meat supplies later this year are expected to run below the record supplies in the last half of 1976.

Egg production in January lagged a year earlier as the extremely cold weather over much of the Nation caused a drop in output per hen. However, the rate of lay will bounce back in coming months and layer numbers will gain. Layer numbers were down slightly on February 1, but the egg-type hatch indicates 13 percent more pullets will be available for flock replacements through mid-1977. The increase in replacement pullets will narrow during the second half of 1977 but is expected to remain above 1976. Thus, egg production this spring and summer is likely to run 1 to 2 percent above a year earlier.

Egg prices rose sharply in January as the cold weather caused tight egg supplies. However, as these higher prices were reflected at retail, consumer resistance set in and prices slipped. From late January to late February wholesale prices for large eggs in New York dropped 19 cents a dozen. Prices are expected to advance as Easter approaches before dropping seasonally in the spring. Second half prices will increase seasonally from spring levels but average well below 1976.

Broiler meat output in federally inspected plants in 1976 rose 13 percent to a record 9 billion pounds (ready-to-cook weight). Despite losses in late 1976 and early 1977, producers continued to raise more

The next issue of the *Poultry and Egg Situation* will be published in early June

broilers. First half 1977 broiler output probably will be around 5 percent above 1976's record output. And producers still have not shown any indications they plan to reduce output to or below 1976 levels during the summer.

Broiler prices in early 1977 have gained more than earlier expected as hog prices strengthened and adverse weather temporarily disrupted production and marketing. Prices in February fluctuated between 39 and 44 cents a pound, but they are expected to ease some and be more stable in coming months. Strong competition from larger than year-ago red meat supplies and increased broiler supplies are expected to result in wholesale broiler prices in 9-cities averaging in the upper 30's during the first half of 1977. Broiler output may show a moderate increase from 1976 this summer, but prospects for increased consumer incomes and lower total red meat supplies is expected to result in 9-city prices about equal to the 41½ cents average registered in July-September 1976.

Turkey output in early 1977 is running behind 1976 levels but should move above a year earlier in coming months. Even though turkey producers were in a cost-price squeeze during much of 1976, they hatched about 3 percent more poults during September-January for first half 1977 marketings. Producers in late 1976 reported plans to raise a few more turkeys this year, but they may alter their plans if profit margins continue unfavorable as the heavy hatching season approaches.

Wholesale prices for 8-16 pound young hen turkeys at New York averaged nearly 49 cents a pound in 1976, down 4 cents from 1975. Prices in early 1977 have been running above a year earlier, but activity in the turkey markets has been seasonally slow. Prices during the first half this year may average near the 49-cent level of the same period of 1976. Later this year increased consumer income and reduced red meat supplies would likely lead to higher than year-earlier turkey prices if turkey supplies are about equal to July-December 1976.

Egg, Poultry, and Livestock Production and changes from a year earlier

	1975				1976				1977	
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I[1]	II[1]
Eggs (Mil. dozens)	1,340	1,330	1,338	1,358	1,358	1,344	1,342	1,360	(1,355)	(1,355)
Percent change	-4	-5	-1	0	+1	+1	0	0	0	+1.5
Broiler[2] (Mil. lbs.)	1,833	2,061	2,080	1,992	2,116	2,314	2,372	2,186	(2,220)	(2,430)
Percent change	-6	-2	+1	+11	+15	+12	+11	+10	+5	+5
Turkeys[2] (Mil. lbs.)	166	289	625	635	207	369	710	664	(200)	(385)
Percent change	-23	-18	-7	+7	+24	+28	+14	+5	-3	+4
Beef[3] (Mil. lbs.)	5,842	5,593	5,942	6,296	6,491	6,143	6,617	6,411	(6,350)	(6,100)
Percent change	+8	-1	+3	+5	+11	+10	+11	+3	-2	-1
Pork[3] (Mil. lbs.)	3,044	2,923	2,512	2,835	2,895	2,782	2,952	3,590	(3,300)	(3,500)
Percent change	-10	-17	-23	-17	-5	-5	+18	+27	+14	+25

Eggs, Poultry, and Livestock Prices

	1975				1976				1977	
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I[1]	II[1]
Eggs, New York[4] (Cents/dozen)	59.0	50.0	57.5	64.7	61.9	57.6	66.9	73.6	(69-71)	(55-57)
Broiler, 9-City[5] (Cents/lb.)	41.2	43.7	50.3	45.1	42.2	41.7	41.5	35.5	(38-40)	(36-38)
Turkeys, New York[6] (Cents/lb.)	48.6	51.1	57.1	56.0	49.5	48.2	48.5	49.0	(48-50)	(46-48)
Choice Steers, Omaha (Dollars/100 lbs.)	35.7	48.0	48.6	46.0	38.7	41.4	37.3	39.0	(37-39)	(39-41)
Barrows and Gilts, 7 Markets (Dol./100 lbs.)	39.4	46.1	58.8	52.2	48.0	49.2	43.9	34.2	(37-39)	(33-35)

[1] Forecast. [2] Federally inspected slaughter. [3] Commercial production. [4] Wholesale, grade A large white. [5] Wholesale weighted average. [6] Wholesale, 8-16 pound young hens.

POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

FACTORS AFFECTING POULTRY INDUSTRY

Cold Weather Dampens Economy

Improvements in the general economy and associated increases in consumers' incomes and increased employment will help the demand for poultry and eggs during 1977.

Despite some weather-related disruptions this winter, the economy is expected to rebound in coming months. As growth picks up, consumer incomes are expected to at a faster rate than the 3 percent increase in real terms shown in 1976 and the number of people employed will increase.

Legislation has been introduced to stimulate the economy by a rebate on 1976 income taxes, adjustments in tax withholding schedules, and a jobs program—all of which would boost consumer incomes. However, the enactment of these proposals likely will not have any substantial impact on consumers' expenditures until sometime during the spring.

Red Meat Supplies Continue Large

Total red meat supplies this winter and spring are expected to continue above year-earlier levels, although beef supplies will be down seasonally. Total commercial red meat production through mid-1977 likely will run around 5 percent above 1976. Second half production may taper off and run below year-earlier levels as the upswing in pork production loses momentum and the effects of 2 consecutive years of herd liquidation by cattlemen begin to impact on cattle slaughter.

Beef production generally was above the year-earlier levels during all of 1975 and 1976 but may drop slightly below for the first half of this year. Continued large output of fed beef and pork probably will hold Choice steer prices at Omaha in the upper $30's to low $40's through midyear, about the same as in 1976. Prices are likely to trend upward in the second half of this year and average several dollars above the $38 level of July-December 1976.

Pork production lagged the prior year's levels through mid-1976 but increased sharply in the second half and exceeded a year earlier by more than a fifth. First half 1977 production will decline from the high levels last fall but continue to average around a fifth above 1976. The margin of increase likely will narrow after midyear and production may drop to about 1976 levels by the end of 1977. Sharp increases in pork production and continued large supplies of other meats will limit price advances for hogs in coming months. Barrows and gilts at 7 markets may average around $35 a hundredweight during January-June, well below the upper $40's of a year earlier. Prices likely will show further strength during the summer but still remain well below 1976.

Production Costs Trend Upward

Production costs are again trending upward after easing in late 1976 and prospects are for additional strength in coming months. Recent gains can be traced in part to a seasonal upward movements in feed ingredient prices and, to a lesser extent, continued advances in the cost of other items of production. Estimates show that fourth quarter 1976 feed costs for broiler and egg producers were down from the third quarter but still above a year earlier. However, because of the 3-month lag in feed prices used in our estimating procedure for turkeys, fourth quarter turkey feed costs still appear to be above third quarter (tables 17, 18, and 19).

Corn prices have increased seasonally since last fall and may continue to strengthen through midyear. However, the record 1976 corn crop of 6.2 billion bushels is helping hold grain prices well below year-earlier levels. Price movements during April-September will be influenced by weather patterns. Producers' early season intentions for corn are to plant about the same acreage as in 1976. Through February many areas of the grain belt were short on soil moisture reserves. With soybean prices running strong relative to prices of grains, there may be some shift of corn acreage to soybeans.

Although feed grain markets are favorable for poultry and egg producers this year, the high-protein feed situation is less favorable. Supplies of high-protein feed are tight and prices will continue well above a year ago. Supplies available for domestic feeding likely will be about 8 percent below the record volume used in 1975/76. Most of the decline will be in soybean meal because of the drop in the 1976 soybean crop and the strong export demand for both soybeans and soybean meal. Soybean meal prices in mid-February averaged $228 a ton (49-50 percent Decatur), up $3 from

a month earlier and $88 above a year earlier. Prices of meal may show some further increase in coming months until more is known about the prospects for the 1977 soybean crop.

Poultry and egg production costs next summer and fall are going to depend greatly on the development of the 1977 crops and changes in domestic and foreign demand. Production costs, other than feed, are likely to continue the upward trend of recent years. The index of prices paid by farmers for production items as of February 15, 1977, was 207 (1967=100), up 1 percent from the previous month and 4 percent above a year earlier.

EGGS

Early 1977 egg production is running behind a year earlier and egg prices are higher. However, output will gain in coming months and should exceed 1976 levels by spring. Egg prices will remain fairly strong before declining seasonally this spring.

Cold Snap Reduces Output

The extremely cold weather over much of the country caused January's egg output to drop 1 percent below last year's 461 million dozen. Layer numbers were down slightly but output per 100 layers dropped 15 eggs from the 1,971 reported in January 1976.

Layers on farms and eggs produced

Calendar quarters	Number of layers		Eggs per layer		Eggs produced	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*No.*	*No.*	*Mil. doz.*	*Mil. doz.*
I	282	279	57.0	58.3	1,339.6	1,357.9
II	273	272	58.5	59.4	1,329.7	1,343.9
III	272	272	59.0	59.2	1,338.1	1,342.3
IV	279	279	58.4	58.5	1,357.6	1,360.0
Annual .	277	276	232.8	235.4	5,365.0	5,404.1

The cold weather, combined with unusally heavy snows over some sections of the country, caused problems that many producers had seldom, if ever, faced. Producers indicated problems with water pipes freezing, getting feed supplies to the farm and to the layers, higher feed conversions, and maintaining desired temperatures and humidity levels.

The weather hit especially hard in some southern States, where the laying houses and other equipment is not made to withstand such cold weather. Output per 100 hens in January was 6 percent below a year earlier in Kentucky, 5 percent in Louisiana, 3 percent in Arkansas, 2.5 percent in Georgia, and 1 percent in Florida and Mississippi. All of these States showed even larger reductions from year-earlier levels on February 1, especially Georgia which dropped to 6 percent below.

Output To Bounce Back

Egg production was down in January but it will bounce back above year-earlier levels in coming months as the rate of lay and layer numbers gain. The rate of lay will rebound back to 1976 levels as the weather moderates and the large increase in young pullets shows up.

Layer numbers were down 1 percent on February 1 but should gain in coming months. The egg-type hatch indicates there will be around 13 percent more pullets for flock replacements during February-June. There will be a small increase in replacement layers entering the flock during the remainder of the winter but a sharp increase in the spring (table 00). Second half replacement pullets will likely continue above a year earlier but show a smaller increase than during the first half of 1977.

Table 2—Egg-type chick hatchery operations

Month	Hatch			Eggs in incubators first of month change from year earlier	
	1975	1976	1977	1976	1977
	Thou.	*Thou.*	*Thou.*	*Pct.*	*Pct.*
January	34,818	35,655	40,249	3	12
February	36,552	39,197		5	12
March	45,372	49,085		6	
April	47,409	50,813		1	
May	47,989	47,632		-1	
June	40,854	41,859		3	
July	38,099	38,001		1	
August	34,934	38,135		4	
September ...	33,851	37,356		10	
October	34,801	36,498		9	
November ...	28,446	36,091		21	
December ...	30,679	36,117		15	

The increase in replacement pullets is expected to be partially offset by increased slaughter of old hens and reduced force moltings. Weekly reports indicate that fewer mature chickens were slaughtered under Federal inspection in January than a year earlier. However, egg prices were high and producers were producing as many eggs as they could. This situation is expected to change when the seasonal drop in egg prices comes this spring. On February 1, producers in 17 States reported that 14.4 percent of their hens and pullets had completed at least one molt, while another 3.4 percent were in the process of being molted. The compara-

Pullet chicks placed for laying flocks, 1968-72 average and 1973-77*

Month	1968-72 average	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*Mil.*	*Mil.*	*Mil.*	*Mil.*
January	22.5	21.7	20.0	19.6	20.3	22.7
February	23.8	22.9	21.3	20.4	22.2	
March	31.0	29.1	26.0	25.4	27.4	
April	34.5	30.0	30.1	26.2	28.5	
May	32.9	30.6	28.8	26.9	27.0	
June	26.8	24.9	24.2	22.9	23.6	
July	23.1	23.1	20.6	21.5	21.8	
August	20.9	23.8	19.8	20.1	21.9	
September	21.5	24.1	18.2	19.6	21.3	
October	22.2	25.9	19.9	19.8	20.9	
November	20.0	22.5	18.7	16.5	20.5	
December	20.1	20.0	18.4	17.7	20.6	
Total	299.3	298.6	266.0	258.9	275.9	

*One-half of egg-type chick hatched plus pullet chicks placed domestically for broiler hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders.

tive figures for February 1, 1976, were 14.5 and 3.6 percent (table 3).

The cold weather may cause first quarter 1977 egg output to about match a year earlier. But spring output is expected to be 1 to 2 percent above 1976 and the second half may be up 2 percent or more.

Egg Prices Strong

Egg prices were strong during most of 1976 and continued so in early 1977. Prices weakened in late December and early January but bounced back sharply as the cold weather reduced available supplies. However, prices weakened again when consumers balked at the high egg prices. New York wholesale prices for Grade A large eggs averaged 67 cents a dozen in early January, strengthened to 82 cents by January 20, but slipped steadily to 63 cents on February 23.

Shell egg prices

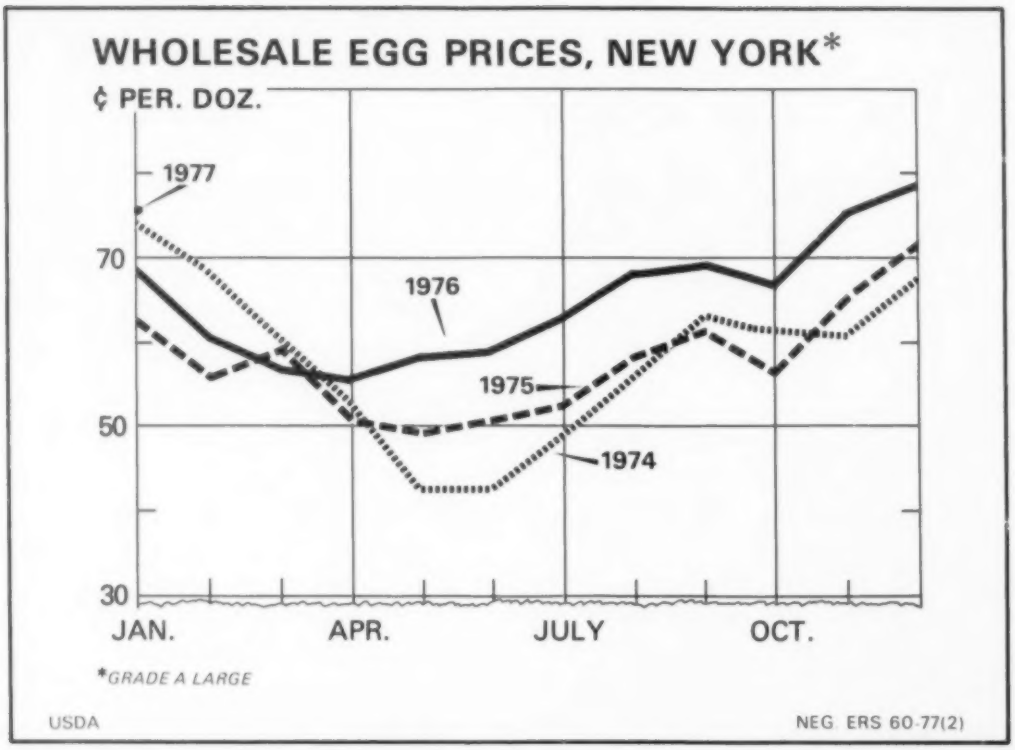
Calendar quarter	Received by producers		New York wholesale[1]		14 Metro areas[2]	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Cents per doz.	*Cents per doz.*	*Cents per doz.*	*Cents per doz.*	*Cents per doz.*	*Cents per doz.*
I	55.1	58.7	59.0	61.9	64.8	67.7
II	46.7	54.2	50.0	57.6	55.3	62.5
III	51.0	59.4	57.5	66.9	62.0	71.0
IV	58.4	65.2	64.7	73.6	69.1	76.9
Annual	52.8	59.4	57.8	65.0	63.0	69.5

[1] Grade A white. [2] Price to volume buyers for consumer Grade A large.

Egg prices are expected to advance as Easter approaches (April 10) but increased egg supplies may limit the rise. Spring prices will show their usual seasonal drop. Second half egg prices will increase from spring but the expected increase in egg supplies will mean prices will average well below July-December 1976.

Table 3—Forced molt layers as a percent of hens and pullets of laying age, first of month, selected States, 1976-77

State	Being molted				Molt completed			
	January		February		January		February	
	1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977
	Percent	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
Alabama	.5	.5	2.0	2.0	13.0	6.0	7.5	5.5
Arkansas	.5	1.5	.5	1.5	6.5	6.5	6.0	7.5
California	4.5	6.0	10.0	9.0	39.0	35.0	39.5	35.0
Florida	2.0	1.0	2.5	1.0	19.5	19.0	13.5	18.5
Georgia	4.0	6.5	2.5	4.5	18.0	18.5	13.0	14.5
Indiana	1.5	2.5	1.0	1.0	7.0	6.0	5.5	7.5
Iowa	.5	1.5	1.0	1.5	2.0	7.0	4.0	8.5
Mississippi	1.5	.5	.5	.5	1.0	.5	1.0	.5
New York	.5	1.0	1.0	.5	8.0	6.5	9.0	7.0
North Carolina	1.0	1.0	2.5	1.0	8.0	5.0	6.5	4.0
Ohio	.5	1.5	1.0	1.0	8.0	9.5	6.0	10.0
Oregon	8.0	3.0	3.0	3.5	29.0	32.0	26.0	26.5
Pennsylvania	1.0	1.5	3.0	1.0	7.0	3.5	7.0	4.0
South Carolina	2.5	3.0	4.0	1.0	7.5	6.5	5.0	5.0
Tennessee	.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	7.0	10.0	5.5	7.0
Texas	.5	2.5	.5	2.5	5.0	8.0	3.0	5.0
Washington	7.0	10.0	11.0	11.0	37.5	11.0	37.0	35.0
17 States	2.2	3.2	3.6	3.4	16.0	15.1	14.5	14.4



Strong breaker uses will likely help bolster egg prices in coming months. Weekly reports indicate that almost a fourth more eggs have been broken under federal inspection through late-February this year than in the comparable period last year. Breakers are probably having to stay in markets to supply current needs. Cold storage stocks of egg products are likely near minimum working levels.

1976 Production Up, Consumption Down

Egg production in 1976 totaled 5,404 million dozens, up almost 1 percent from 1975 and the first annual increase in output since 1971. However, a sharp increase in hatching use, smaller imports, increased exports, shipments, and military use, and increased population caused a drop in per capita consumption. Preliminary numbers indicate that consumption of eggs was 276 eggs per person in 1976, a drop of 3 eggs from the previous year and 38 eggs since 1971.

The use of eggs for hatching purposes is estimated to have taken around 405 million dozen eggs in 1976, up 9 percent from 1985. Egg-type hatchings were up 8 percent but broiler-type hatchings were up 9 percent. The 405 million dozens made up 7.5 percent of total egg production in 1976, compared with 6.9 percent in 1975.

Imports of shell eggs and egg products totaled 3.2 million dozen in 1976, down 44 percent from 1975 (table 4). Exports showed a 6-percent increase to 37.4 million dozens (shell egg equivalent). Shell egg exports increased a third while egg products slipped 41 percent. Shipments to American territories at 27.8 million dozen (shell egg equivalent) was up slightly from 1975. Military usage also increased slightly to 45.4 million dozen.

Total egg consumption in 1976 was down 3 eggs per person but there was a slight increase in processed eggs usage. Egg breaking data for all of 1976 are not available yet, but breakings for 1976 are estimated at 590 million dozen. This would be an increase of around 7 percent from 1975. Breakings showed a sharp increase late in the year (table 5). Also, stocks of frozen egg products dropped about 8 million dozen (shell egg equivalent) from the first of 1976 to 1977 (table 16).

EMEC Market Values

In an effort to improve price information for the egg industry, the Egg Market Evaluation Committee (EMEC) was formed in 1972 by Egg Clearinghouse, Inc., to provide quotations on market egg values twice weekly. The original committee consisted of three members, but recently has been

Table 4—Egg supplies available to civilians for food

Item	Unit	January-March			April-June			July-September			October-December		
		1975	1976	Change from year earlier	1975	1976	Change from year earlier	1975	1976	Change from year earlier	1975	1976	Change from year earlier
Beginning stocks .	Mil. doz.	42.2	28.2	-14.0	36.4	23.0	-13.4	38.7	23.8	-14.9	40.9	23.2	-17.7
Farm Production .	Mil. doz.	1,339.6	1,358.0	18.4	1,329.7	1,343.8	14.1	1,338.0	1,342.3	4.3	1,357.6	1,360.0	2.4
Imports	Mil. doz.	3.0	0.1	-2.9	0.9	0.3	-0.6	1.6	1.7	0.1	0.2	1.1	0.9
Exports and shipments	Mil. doz.	12.8	15.2	2.4	17.3	15.9	-1.4	18.4	18.0	-0.4	13.7	16.2	2.5
Military procurements	Mil. doz.	9.7	13.1	3.4	11.9	10.8	-1.1	10.1	9.3	-0.8	10.8	12.2	1.4
Eggs used for hatching	Mil. doz.	94.0	104.2	10.2	97.3	107.4	10.1	88.4	95.8	7.4	91.4	97.0	5.6
Supplies available to civilians for food:													
Total	Mil. doz.	1,268.3	1,253.8	-14.5	1,240.5	1,233.0	-7.5	1,261.4	1,244.7	-16.7	1,282.8	1,258.9	-23.9
Per capita	No.	72.2	70.8	-1.4	70.5	69.6	-1.0	71.5	70.1	-1.4	72.6	70.7	-1.9
Civilian population	Mil.	210.8	212.5	1.7	211.1	212.8	1.6	211.7	213.2	1.5	212.1	213.6	1.5

Table 5—Shell eggs broken and egg products produced under federal inspection, 1975-76

Period[1]	Shell eggs broken	Egg products produced[2]		
		Liquid[3]	Frozen	Dried
	Thou. doz.	*Thou. lbs.*	*Thou. lbs.*	*Thou. lbs.*
1975				
Jan. 5-Feb. 1	39,854	22,012	22,380	4,220
Feb. 2-Mar. 1	36,547	21,409	20,181	3,240
Mar. 2-Mar. 29	34,525	22,941	18,866	2,954
Mar. 30-Apr. 26 ...	38,774	23,095	21,215	3,955
Apr. 27-May 24 ...	45,509	25,685	25,945	4,329
May 25-June 30 ...	67,789	36,389	39,645	6,299
July 1-July 19	36,159	18,107	20,585	3,827
July 20-Aug. 16 ...	50,116	27,421	26,067	5,123
Aug. 17-Sept. 13 ..	46,690	26,074	24,155	4,903
Sept. 14-Oct. 11[4] .	48,056	25,893	24,831	5,418
Oct. 12-Nov. 8	44,074	26,108	21,635	5,482
Nov. 9-Dec. 6	33,638	20,319	19,155	3,983
Dec. 7-Jan. 3	29,676	16,458	17,901	2,364
1976				
Jan. 4-Jan. 31	36,069	21,263	20,190	3,115
Feb. 1-Feb. 28	37,569	23,729	20,670	3,079
Feb. 29-Mar. 27 ...	44,727	26,076	24,695	4,726
Mar. 28-Apr. 24 ...	46,143	26,107	26,550	4,443
Apr. 25-May 22 ...	45,863	28,198	23,688	4,974
May 23-June 30 ...	68,698	41,699	36,648	6,967
July 1-July 17	28,425	16,315	15,971	3,472
July 18-Aug. 14 ...	48,264	29,420	23,802	6,064
Aug. 15-Sept. 11 ..	45,044	27,117	22,331	4,840
Sept. 12-Sept. 30[4] .	36,847	24,106	16,381	3,986
Oct. 1-Oct. 23[4] ...	42,290	26,283	21,049	4,841
Oct. 24-Nov. 20 ...	48,982	29,278	26,585	5,447
Nov. 21-Dec. 18 ...	42,792	25,120	23,021	4,432
Dec. 19-Jan. 15 ...				

[1] Weeks in 1975 and 1976. [2] Includes ingredients added. [3] Liquid egg product produced for immediate consumption and for processing. [4] Period differ from previous year because of change from July-June fiscal year to Oct.-Sept. fiscal year.

expanded to four members. All members of the committee represent persons who have *no personal financial interest* in the egg business, but they do have substantial expertise in the area of egg marketing and prices.

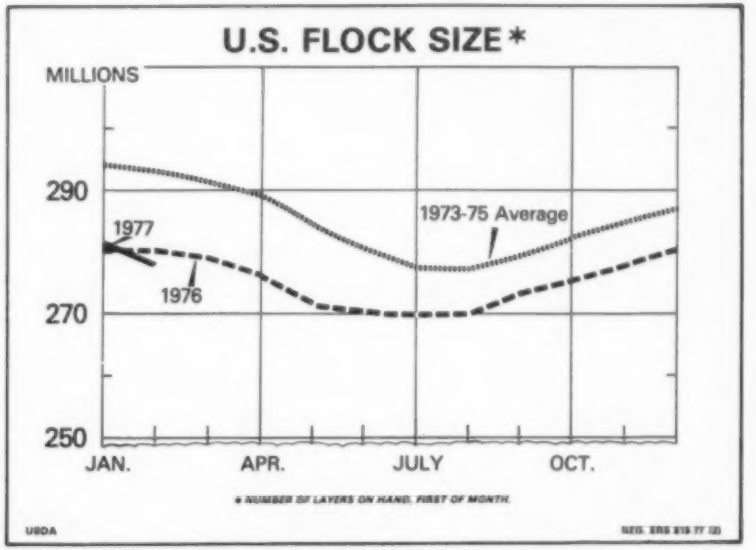
EMEC quotes may or may not be actual prices paid to producers. When no completed trades are available in the area, the committee estimates what buyers would have paid if trading had occurred or what they would have had to pay to obtain eggs from producers.

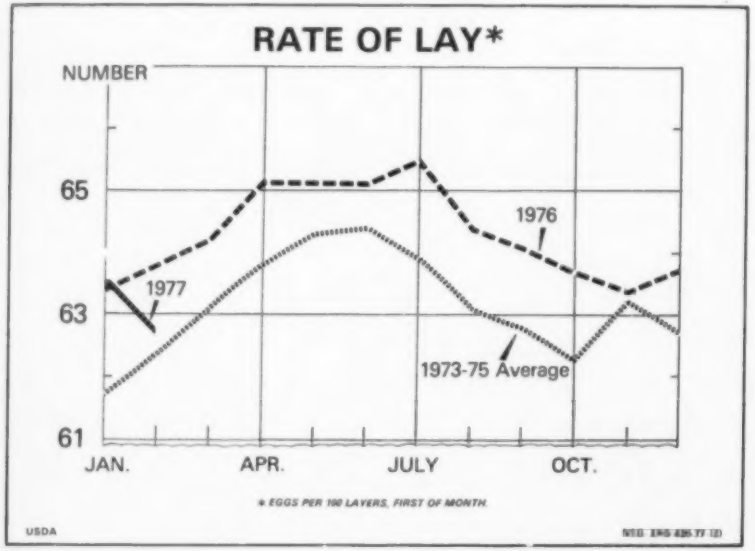
The committee values are quoted for gradeable nest run (GNR) classes 1, 2, 3, and 4, nest run breaking stock, and for checks. Values are quoted on Tuesday and Thursday mornings following the close of Egg Clearinghouse, Inc., morning trading sessions. Nest run represents eggs as produced at farm, a mixture of sizes and qualities, without added services and materials.

The Eastern price quote generally represents the New York metropolitan area of eastern New York, New Jersey, and eastern Pennsylvania. The Midwest quote covers the heavy consuming area from Chicago east to Cleveland and includes the northern half of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio.

The EMEC quotes for Eastern Class 1 nest run eggs averaged about 6 cents a dozen below the USDA prices for New York Grade A large white eggs delivered loose in 1974, and 7 cents in both 1975 and 1976. The EMEC quotes also run a little below the USDA's mid-month price received by producers. This would be expected because the price received by producers include all eggs sold by farmers, including hatching eggs and eggs sold at retail (table 6).

EGGS
Break-Even Cost and Market Price
¢ PER DOZ.
70
60
50
Egg price *
Break-even cost Δ
1974
1975
1976
1977
QUARTERLY DATA
* 14 AREA METRO PRICE Δ ESTIMATED U.S. BREAK EVEN COST
USDA
NEG. ERS 2609 77(2)


U.S. FLOCK SIZE *
MILLIONS
290
270
250
1977
1976
1973-75 Average
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* NUMBER OF LAYERS ON HAND, FIRST OF MONTH.
USDA


RATE OF LAY*
NUMBER
65
63
61
1976
1977
1973-75 Average
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* EGGS PER 100 LAYERS, FIRST OF MONTH.
USDA

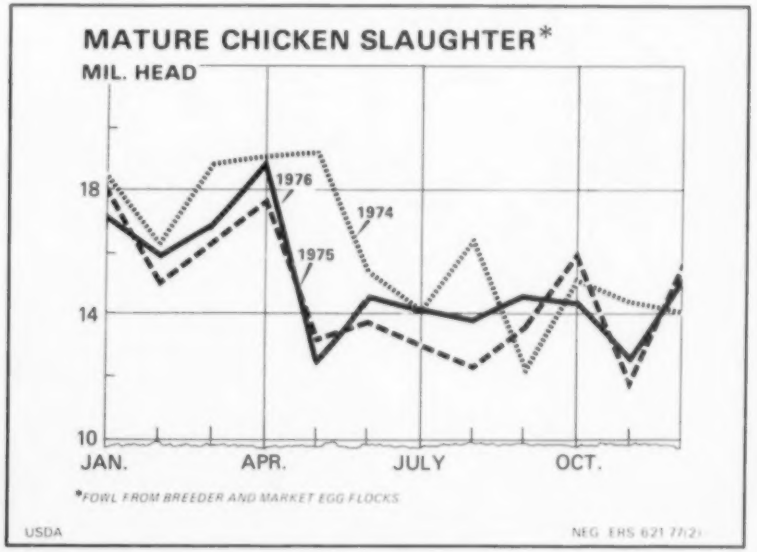

MATURE CHICKEN SLAUGHTER*
MIL. HEAD
18
14
10
1976
1974
1975
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*FOWL FROM BREEDER AND MARKET EGG FLOCKS.
USDA
NEG. ERS 621 77(2)

Table 6— E.M.E.C. nest run market egg values, with comparisons, 1974-76

Month and year	E.M.E.C. quotes on market values[1]		Received by[2] producers United States	Wholesale grade A large New York
	East	Midwest		
	Cents per dozen			
1974				
January	68.6	67.9	66.6	74.0
February	62.8	62.4	63.9	68.3
March	55.6	55.0	56.7	60.2
April	47.2	46.2	50.1	52.1
May	37.3	36.3	42.2	42.7
June	38.0	37.0	39.8	42.8
July	42.9	42.3	43.8	49.0
August	49.7	49.6	47.8	55.8
September	56.7	56.4	54.8	63.1
October	53.1	52.1	54.9	61.7
November	54.7	54.1	55.4	61.2
December	61.0	60.1	59.5	67.3
1975				
January	54.8	53.8	57.2	62.2
February	48.5	47.0	54.1	55.4
March	50.9	50.4	54.1	59.2
April	44.0	43.0	47.4	50.2
May	42.3	41.9	47.1	49.3
June	43.8	43.5	45.6	50.6
July	45.7	45.5	46.5	52.6
August	50.8	50.4	50.8	58.2
September	53.8	52.8	55.8	61.6
October	49.4	49.2	52.9	56.6
November	57.9	57.9	58.2	65.7
December	64.3	63.7	64.1	71.8
1976				
January	61.8	60.2	62.2	68.4
February	54.1	51.9	59.8	60.6
March	52.1	51.8	54.1	56.8
April	46.6	46.2	53.4	55.4
May	51.4	49.8	55.5	58.4
June	52.3	52.1	53.8	58.8
July	56.8	56.5	55.5	63.1
August	60.4	60.8	60.6	68.6
September	60.4	60.7	62.1	69.2
October	59.9	60.4	60.8	67.5
November	68.5	68.2	65.3	75.2
December	72.3	71.5	69.5	78.2

[1] Average of weekly price quotations for nest run eggs by the Egg Market Evaluation Committee. Does not necessarily represent prices at which eggs traded in the markets. [2] Average of all eggs sold by farmers including hatching eggs and eggs sold at retail. [3] Wholesale selling prices F.O.B. Dock, minimum 25 cases, loose whites. Minimum 10% AA; 75% A.

BROILERS

1977 Continues Expansion

Broiler output in early 1977 continues to run well above year-ago levels. Through February 16, the number of broilers inspected for slaughter was 3 percent above a year earlier while the average marketing weight was near year-ago levels. However, the unusually bad weather in many areas caused disruptions in production and marketing. Condemnation for January will likely show a sharp jump in these areas.

Weekly slaughter reports and chick placements in 21 States point to around a 5 percent gain over 1976 in first quarter output, compared with a 10 percent increase in the last quarter of 1976. Although the unfavorable relationship between production costs and market prices in recent months is expected to hold down the expansion in

Broilers slaughtered in Federally inspected plants

Calendar quarters	Number inspected		Average live weight		Certified	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*Lb.*	*Lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*
I	671.2	764.7	3.77	3.82	1,833.0	2,116.4
II	755.5	842.9	3.76	3.78	2,061.5	2,313.7
III	773.9	864.8	3.70	3.79	2,079.6	2,371.6
IV	721.2	780.4	3.82	3.87	1,992.0	2,185.5
Annual	2,921.8	3,252.8	3.76	3.81	7,966.1	8,987.3

broiler production this spring and summer, producers continue to expand. For the latest 3 weeks ending February 19, producers placed 5 percent more eggs in incubators than in the comparable 3 weeks of 1976 (table 7). Thus, output this spring will likely show a 5-percent increase from second quarter 1976.

Producers weathered rather sharp losses last fall and in early 1977 with only minimal cutbacks. Thus, there is little likelihood they will cut back now as they move into the period of increasing seasonal demand for chicken and prospects for some easing in competing meat supplies after midyear.

As in most years, the broiler hatchery supply flock likely will not be a limiting factor in broiler production this year. The number of layers currently in the flock is well above a year ago and likely will remain above during most of 1977 unless there is an unusually heavy movement of older layers to slaughter. On the basis of pullet chick placement data 7-14 months earlier, the flock during February will be a tenth larger than a year earlier. The increase over 1976 will narrow in coming months but the flock could still be 7 percent larger by midyear. The number of eggs available for hatching varies, depending on flock management, rate of production, and utilization of eggs produced.

Broiler Price Outlook

Prices gained more than usual in early 1977 as adverse weather disrupted the growing, processing, and marketing of broilers. Wholesale prices in February fluctuated between 39 and 44 cents a pound. They are expected to ease and not be as volatile in coming months, averaging in the upper 30's during the first half of this year before moving up into the low 40's in the summer. Larger broiler and pork supplies and continued large supplies of other meats will limit broiler price increases in 1977. Although per capita disposable incomes may be higher than in 1976, its effect on broiler demand this winter may be offset by sharp increases in

Broiler prices

Calendar quarters	Liveweight		9-city	
	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Cents per pound			
I	23.9	24.6	41.2	42.2
II	25.1	24.2	43.7	41.7
III	29.5	24.3	50.3	41.5
IV	26.5	19.8	45.1	35.5
Annual	26.3	23.2	45.1	40.2

Table 7—Broiler: Eggs set and broiler chicks placed weekly in 21 commercial broiler producing States, 1975-77[1]

Weeks[2]	Eggs set		Percent of previous year	Chicks placed		Percent of previous year
	1975-76	1976-77	1976-77	1976-77	1975-76	1976-77
	Thousands	*Thousands*	*Percent*	*Thousands*	*Thousands*	*Percent*
November						
8	70,669	74,509	105	52,444	54,189	103
15	72,536	75,597	104	57,244	59,951	105
22	71,753	74,629	104	59,397	62,709	106
29	72,364	74,495	103	58,362	60,504	104
December						
6	68,144	74,062	109	59,529	61,610	103
13	72,298	75,128	104	59,407	61,192	103
20	73,013	76,925	105	59,200	60,788	102
27	73,107	76,535	105	56,398	60,599	102
January						
3	71,739	77,327	108	59,337	61,750	104
10	73,970	78,159	106	59,946	63,003	105
17	74,541	77,503	104	59,615	62,986	106
24	75,083	77,278	103	60,394	63,984	106
31	73,772	78,698	107	60,851	64,335	106
February						
7	76,197	80,418	106	61,272	64,195	105
14	78,559	82,745	105	61,968	63,532	103
21	79,797	83,662	105	60,416	65,242	108
28						

[1] Table abbreviated from usual size because the Hatchery Report issued by SRS on March 17, 1977 will give final weekly 21 State eggs set and chicks placed for December 1975-November 1976. [2] Weeks in 1975-76 and corresponding weeks in 1976-77.

utility bills because of the extremely cold weather over much of the Nation this winter.

Broiler Prospects for July-September 1977

Broiler producers have generally been in a cost-price squeeze since last summer but prospects are for some improvement. The cost of producing broilers could ease and the demand for broilers should improve.

Production costs during July-September may ease if weather conditions result in big corn and soybean crops. Each 10 cents a bushel change in corn prices or $10-a-ton change in soybean meal (49-50 percent Decatur) paid by broiler producers causes about three-tenths of a cent change in the cost of producing a pound of liveweight broiler. While feed prices could ease, the cost of other items used in production and marketing likely will be higher.

Broiler prices usually increase seasonally and reach their high for the year during the summer months as consumers use more chicken for outdoor activities, such as picnics and barbecuing. Also, chicken sold through fast food outlets peaks during the summer.

Consumers' disposable incomes and employment will likely continue to gain and competition from beef will ease. However, much of the price effect on broilers from smaller total beef supplies will be offset by large pork supplies and lower prices for hogs during late summer.

With beef and pork supplies and prices, and consumers incomes, about as expected during July-September 1977, and broiler meat output up around 5 percent from 1976, 9-city broiler prices would be expected to average near the 41.5 cents of last year (table 8). However, past relationships indicate that if the other factors remain as expected, broiler output at the same level as a year earlier would result in a price 1-3 cents a pound above a year earlier. Under the same conditions, a 10-percent change in production from a year earlier would result in a 12-percent change in broiler prices in the opposite direction.

1976 Scores Record Output

Broiler production was record large in 1976. High profit margins during the second half of 1975 prompted producers to push hatchery activity and placements to record highs. No substantial reduction in the rate of increase was made until late in

Table 8—Estimated 3rd quarter 1977 broiler price/consumption relationships[1]

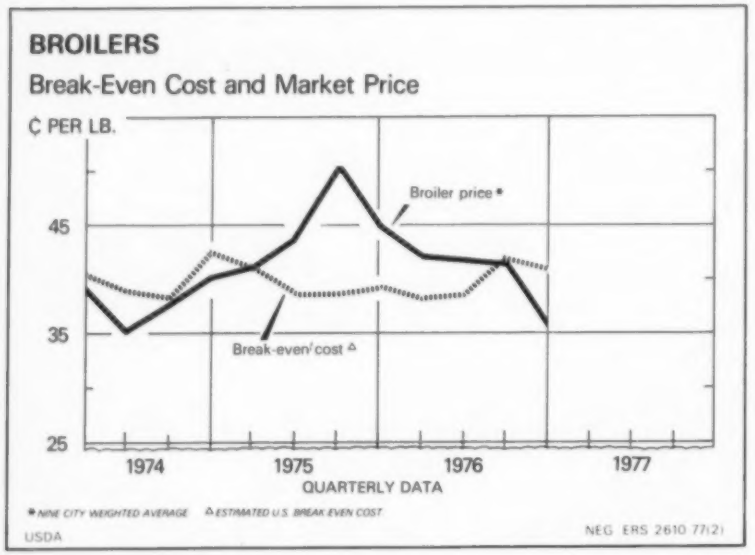
Domestic civilian per capita consumption		Estimated 9-city wholesale broiler price
Pounds	Percent change from year earlier	
		Cents per lb.
9.2	-15%	52-54
9.7	-10%	49-51
10.2	-5%	46-48
10.7	-0-	[2]43-45
11.2	+5%	40-42
11.7	+10%	37-39
12.2	+15%	34-46

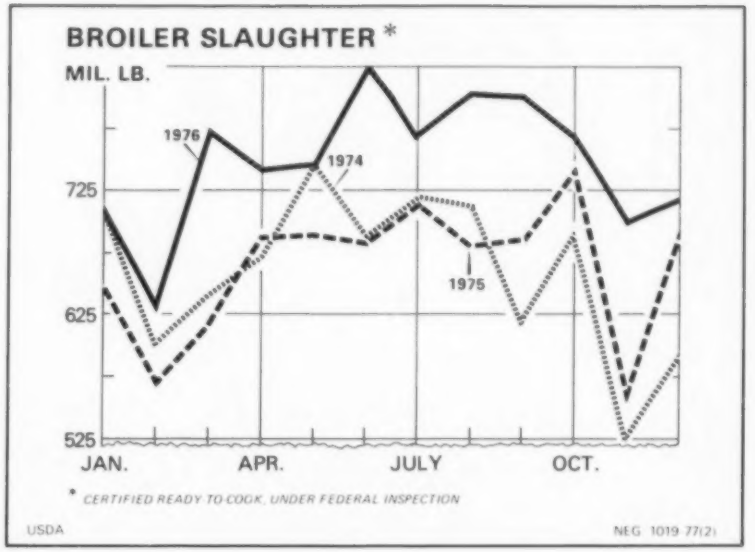
[1] Based on historical relationships. [2] The estimated 43-45 cents per pound is based on prospective conditions for competing meats and general economic activity and assumes no change from a year earlier in per capita consumption of broilers.

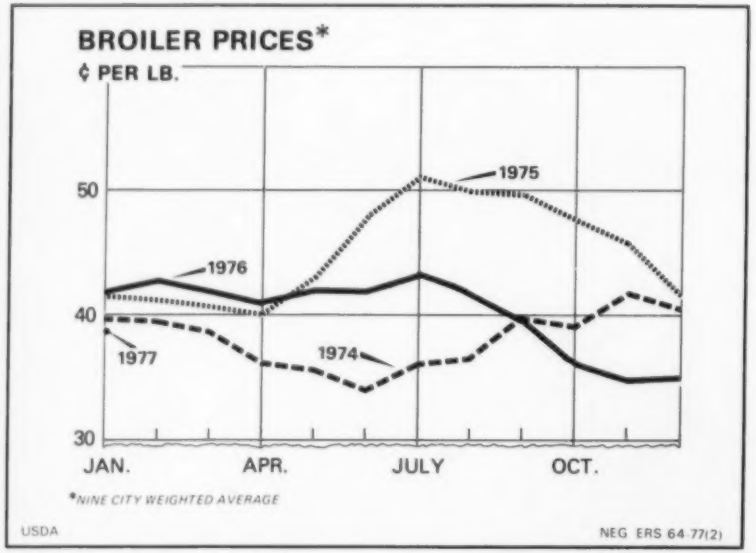
The price other than the base 43-45 cents per pound price were estimated by assuming the same conditions for competing meats and economic activity as under the base but various changes from a year earlier in the per capita consumption of broilers.

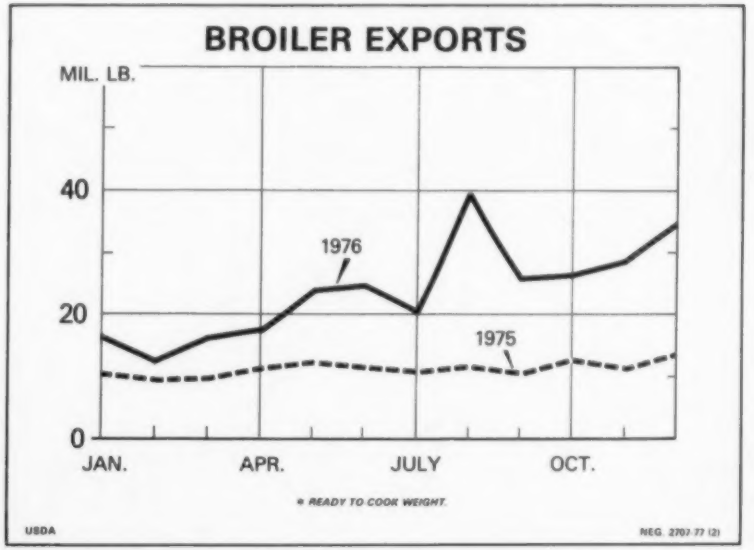
Table 9—Young chicken: Supply and utilization, Third quarter 1965-76

Year	Production	Beginning stocks	Total supply	Ending stocks	Exports and shipments	Military	Civilian disappearance	Population	Per capita
	Million pounds	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million*	*Pounds*
1965	1,605	26	1,631	26	29	22	1,554	191.9	8.1
1966	1,748	27	1,775	38	33	19	1,684	193.6	8.7
1967	1,745	49	1,794	48	38	23	1,684	195.5	8.6
1968	1,793	28	1,821	25	43	19	1,737	197.3	8.8
1969	1,903	23	1,926	25	45	21	1,835	199.4	9.2
1970	2,020	43	2,063	42	48	15	1,958	202.0	9.7
1971	2,041	39	2,080	37	58	12	1,974	204.5	9.7
1972	2,095	24	2,119	24	47	9	2,039	206.7	9.9
1973	2,048	20	2,068	28	44	12	1,985	208.3	9.5
1974	2,110	37	2,147	35	56	10	2,044	209.9	9.7
1975	2,110	23	2,132	23	65	9	2,035	211.7	9.6
1976	2,404	20	2,424	24	117	6	2,276	213.2	10.7


BROILERS
Break-Even Cost and Market Price
¢ PER LB.
45
35
25
Broiler price *
Break-even/cost △
1974
1975
1976
1977
QUARTERLY DATA
* NINE CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE △ ESTIMATED U.S. BREAK EVEN COST
USDA
NEG. ERS 2610 77(2)


BROILER SLAUGHTER *
MIL. LB.
725
625
525
1976
1974
1975
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* CERTIFIED READY-TO-COOK, UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION
USDA
NEG. 1019-77(2)


BROILER PRICES*
¢ PER LB.
50
40
30
1975
1976
1977
1974
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*NINE CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE
USDA
NEG. ERS 64-77(2)


BROILER EXPORTS
MIL. LB.
40
20
0
1976
1975
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* READY TO COOK WEIGHT
USDA
NEG. 2707-77 (2)

the year when profit margins turned negative as production costs rose while broiler prices dropped sharply.

Output in federally inspected plants in 1976 totaled 8,987 million pounds (certified, ready-to-cook), up 13 percent from 1975. Total production figures will be available in April. But the percentage increase from 1975 likely will be little different from the federally inspected output. In 1975, 98.3 percent of total production went through federally inspected plants, up from 93 percent in 1970. This change largely resulted from many States turning their inspection responsibility over to the Federal Government.

The number of broilers slaughtered in federally inspected plants in 1976 totaled 3,253 million, 11 percent more than in 1975. In addition, marketing weights gained 1.3 percent to a record 3.8 pounds per bird. Condemnations as a percent of total slaughter increased slightly in 1976 after declining each year since 1970. Post-mortem condemnations in 1976 amounted to 196 million pounds (New York dressed weight), equivalent to 2.4 percent of total liveweight of birds inspected for slaughter, compared with 167 million pounds and 2.3 percent in 1975. Ante-mortem condemnations in 1976 totaled 40 million pounds liveweight, and 0.45 percent of total liveweight output. This compared with 36 million pounds and about the same percentage of total production in 1975.

Record Disappearance in 1976

The use of broiler meat gained sharply in 1976 in line with increased output. Domestic consumption, exports, shipments, USDA purchases, and military purchases were all above 1975.

Consumption of young chicken (primarily broilers) in 1976 increased over 3½ pounds to around 40.6 pounds per person. This would be the largest use on record and compares with the previous record of 38.4 pounds in 1972. Consumption will continue to rise this winter and spring in line with the continuing expansion in broiler output.

U.S. exports of chicken in 1976 were more than double those of the previous year with exports gaining sharply to nearly all countries making major purchases in 1976. Although exports were up sharply, they accounted for only a little more than 3 percent of production, compared with less than 2 percent in 1975. Exports of young chicken (primarily broilers) in 1976 totaled 287 million pounds, up 108 percent from 1975 and 67 percent above the previous record in 1962 (table 10). The sharp gain in exports in 1976 resulted from large U.S. broiler supplies at attractive prices, a smaller increase in broiler production in other exporting countries, and aggressive selling by the U.S. broiler industry. The aggressive action by the industry was largely responsible for the first major sales of broilers to the USSR and in the Mideast.

Iraq was the leading importer of U.S. broilers in 1976, purchasing 62 million pounds of whole frozen broilers. This was the first year that Iraq had purchased any substantial quantities of chicken from the United States. The next six leading importers of U.S. young chickens were Japan, Hong Kong, Jamacia, Canada, Singapore, and Mexico, in that order. These seven accounted for nearly four-fifths of all U.S. young chicken exports in 1976.

Although total quantities were not as large, very sharp increases in U.S. exports were recorded to Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Italy, and Switzerland. Exports to the European Community gained but

Table 10—U.S. young chicken exports to major importers, 1962, 1965, 1970, 1975-76

Country or area	1962	1965	1970	1975	1976
	1,000 pounds	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*
Canada	1,459	2,978	1,380	6,588	16,071
Mexico	701	780	2,068	9,569	11,651
Jamaica	670	1,241	12,057	24,148	36,982
Barbados	617	1,313	6,632	3,703	4,838
Netherlands Antilles	2,145	2,936	4,493	6,660	8,745
United Kingdom	113	741	523	298	1,258
Netherlands	19,457	5,616	152	260	580
West Germany	93,290	20,752	1,231	492	834
Greece	2,896	5,562	3,241	145	190
Switzerland	19,890	1,970	12,941	363	1,670
Hong Kong	10,840	8,356	17,141	20,131	37,948
Japan	612	9,219	9,800	29,114	47,037
Singapore	602	0	1,279	10,102	13,939
Iraq	0	0	0	0	62,026
Saudia Arabia	188	1,270	263	793	1,672
U.S.S.R.	0	0	0	0	4,831
Other	19,096	25,178	20,506	22,365	37,136
Total	172,576	87,912	93,707	137,731	287,408

remained well below the record levels of 1962 when the Community was formed. Exports to Europe fell sharply after 1962 because of trade barriers to U.S. poultry instituted by the community. Exports to the common market in 1962 totaled nearly 113 million pounds and accounted for 65 percent of our total exports of young chickens. This compares with a little over 4 million pounds in 1976 and less than 2 percent of total exports.

There likely will be a continued expansion in foreign broiler production in 1977 but U.S. exports are expected to continue strong. Industry sources reported that several shipments of broilers will leave U.S. ports in early 1977. Some of these are destined for Iraq, Iran, and the USSR. With the success they had building sales in 1976, the broiler industry is expected to continue promoting further sales in 1977. Thus, U.S. exports of young chickens in 1977 could about match or exceed 1976's record levels. U.S. broilers will remain a good buy in 1977 as prices likely will continue below prices in 1975 and 1976.

In addition, shipments of young chicken meat to U.S. territories in 1976 increased 9 percent to 127 million pounds. This was the largest shipments on record to U.S. territories.

USDA Purchases Up

Purchases by USDA of young chickens and young chicken products for distribution in child nutrition and food programs for the elderly in calendar 1976 totaled 47 million pounds of fresh frozen cut-up chickens and 0.6 million pounds of cooked frozen cut-up chicken at a total cost of $23 million. This compares with 1975's purchases of 30 million and 0.2 million pounds respectively at a total cost of $16 million. Nearly half of the 1976 purchases were during January-March with the balance during August-December. In 1975, nearly all of the purchases were made during September-December. In addition, USDA purchased 20 million pounds of canned boned chicken (fowl) in 1976, up from 15 million pounds in 1975.

Purchases are continuing in early 1977. Through February 17, 9.5 million pounds of fresh frozen cut-up chicken and 6.4 million pounds of canned boned chicken were purchased.

TURKEYS

Producers Plan Little Change for 1977

Turkey producers in 20 major producing States indicated in late 1976 that they planned to raise a few more turkeys in 1977 than in 1976. They plan to raise 135.5 million—120.7 million heavy breeds and 14.8 million light breeds. This would be an increase of 3 percent for heavy breeds but a 13-percent decrease for light breeds. However, producers may alter their plans as the hatching season progresses and profit prospects change. In late 1975 producers in these 20 States indicated plans to raise 6 percent more turkeys in 1976, but favorable prospects early in the season caused the number of turkeys actually produced to climb 12 percent above 1975. Current prospects are not as favorable as a year ago and producers may very well not raise more turkeys for 1977 marketings.

A count of turkey breeder hens on farms December 1, 1976—which were down 2 percent from a year earlier to 3 million birds—also suggests the possibility of no growth. However, with the variation in the number of turkeys raised per breeder hen, the breeder flock appears to be adequate to meet intended output. Heavy breed hens, at 2.7 million, were up 1 percent but light breed hens were down 23 percent to 309,000 (table 11).

Output to Gain

Turkey meat output in early 1977 is running behind the large off-season rate in early 1976, but it will move ahead in coming months and likely will continue near record levels in the spring. Poult production during September-January, largely for marketing during the winter and spring was up nearly 3 percent. However, there were 3 percent fewer eggs in incubators on February 1. This indicates that first half 1977 turkey marketings may about match January-June 1976 (tables 12 and 13). The average marketing weights may be heavier than a year ago because a larger proportion of the turkeys marketed will be heavy breeds.

January 1 Stocks Lower Than Expected

Despite record turkey meat output throughout 1976, cold storage stocks on January 1, 1977, at 203 million pounds, were only 18 million pounds above a year earlier (table 16). Cold storage stocks began to build relative to 1975 last spring and on October 1 exceeded a year earlier by nearly 50 million pounds. However, demand for turkey meat was excellent in the fourth quarter and near record movement out of storage occurred. Part of the increased movement went into further processing beyond the cut up stage. During October-December 1976, 175 million pounds went for further processing, 15 million pounds more than in the like period of 1975. Although January 1 stocks are up a little from 1976, they are well below most other recent years and should not be burdensome on the market.

Turkey Prices Unsteady

Turkey prices, after weakening in early 1977, have strengthened in recent weeks. New York wholesale prices for 8-16 pound young hen turkeys

Table 11—Turkey breeder hens: Number on farms, selected States, December 1, 1974-76

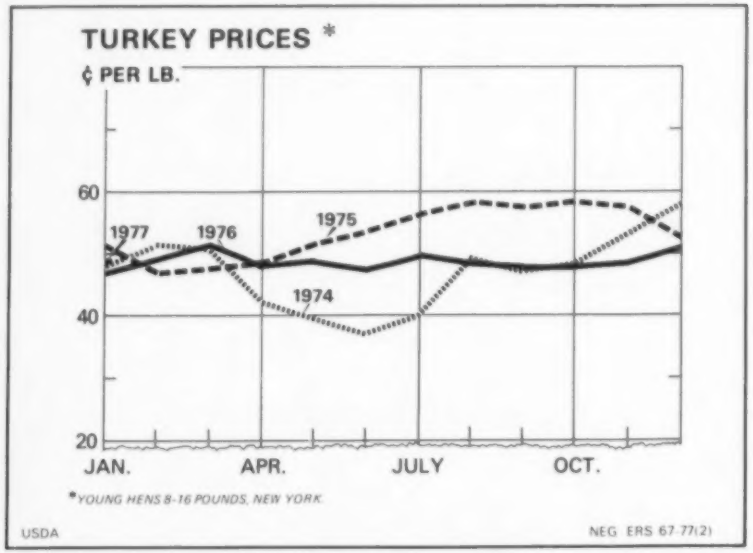
State	Heavy breeds			Light breeds			All breeds			1976 as % of 1975
	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	
	1,000 hd.	*1,000 hd.*	*1,000 hd.*	*1,000 hd.*	*1,000 hd.*	*1,000 hd.*	*1,000 hd.*	*1,000 hd.*	*1,000 hd.*	*Percent*
Arkansas[1]							20	44	44	100
California	654	642	616	62	58	49	716	700	665	95
Georgia	27	38	39	0	0	0	27	38	39	103
Illinois	38	38	40	0	0	0	38	38	40	105
Indiana	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Iowa	147	100	131	6	3	4	153	103	135	131
Michigan	30	61	55	0	1	0	30	62	55	89
Minnesota	316	330	271	163	175	109	479	505	380	75
Missouri[1]							185	155	190	123
Nebraska	9	11	9	0	0	0	9	11	9	82
North Carolina[1]							265	304	320	105
Ohio[2]	83			8			91	98	109	111
Oregon[1]							100	70	60	85
Pennsylvania	17	19	16	7	8	8	24	27	24	89
South Carolina	35			20			55	78	39	50
Texas	400	470	450	15	12	0	415	482	450	93
Utah	45	40	37	0	0	0	45	40	37	93
Virginia	55	80	106	41	43	71	96	123	177	144
West Virginia	12	10	10	4	4	4	16	14	14	100
Wisconsin	81	91	77	0	0	10	81	91	87	96
Other States[3]							109	115	162	141
TOTAL	2,588	2,697	2,728	366	401	309	2,954	3,098	3,037	98

[1] Breakdown by breeds not published to avoid disclosing individual operations. [2] Breakdown by breeds not published for 1975 and/or 1976 to avoid disclosing individual operations. [3] Colorado, Kansas, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Washington combined to avoid disclosing individual operations.

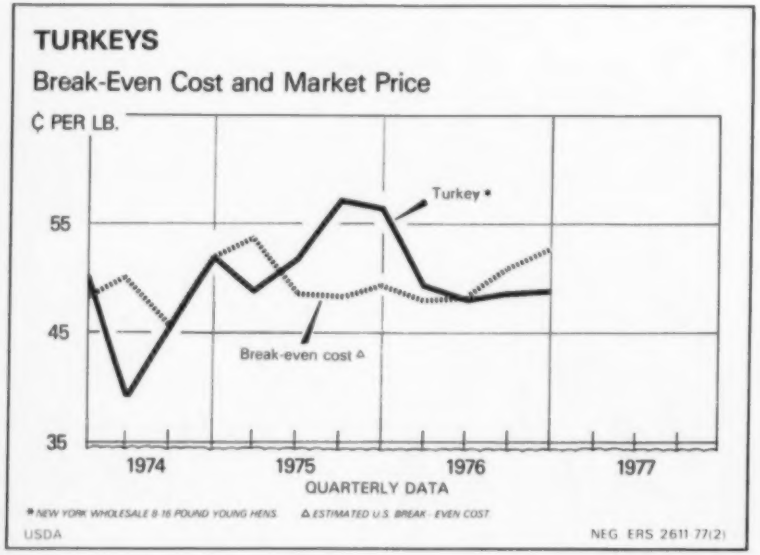
Table 12—Turkey hatchery operations, United States and 9 States, 1975-77

Month	United States				9-States[1]			
	Hatch		Change from year earlier		Hatch		Change from year earlier	
	1975-76	1976-77	Hatch	Eggs in incubators first of month	1975-76	1976-77	Hatch	Eggs in incubators first of month
	Thou.	*Thou.*	*Pct.*	*Pct.*	*Thou.*	*Thou.*	*Pct.*	*Pct.*
September	4,337	4,252	-2	-2	3,710	3,628	-2	-4
October	4,465	4,880	9	6	3,766	3,906	+4	0
November	5,391	6,016	12	4	4,466	5,004	+12	+6
December	7,888	7,589	-4	-9	6,433	5,930	-8	-13
January	10,513	10,771	2	2	8,576	8,389	-2	-2
February	13,716			-3	10,743			-6
March	18,475				14,707			
April	19,748				15,261			
May	20,171				15,651			
June	19,572				15,418			
July	15,354				12,013			
August	8,131				6,622			

[1] California, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin.


TURKEY PRICES *
¢ PER LB.
60
40
20
1977
1976
1975
1974
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*YOUNG HENS 8-16 POUNDS, NEW YORK.
USDA
NEG. ERS 67-77(2)

TURKEY PRODUCTION BY MONTHS *
MIL. LB.
200
100
0
1975
1974
1976
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*TOTAL TURKEY CERTIFIED, READY-TO-COOK WEIGHT.
USDA
NEG. ERS 844-77(2)


TURKEYS
Break-Even Cost and Market Price
¢ PER LB.
55
45
35
Turkey *
Break-even cost Δ
1974
1975
1976
1977
QUARTERLY DATA
* NEW YORK WHOLESALE 8-16 POUND YOUNG HENS. Δ ESTIMATED U.S. BREAK-EVEN COST.
USDA
NEG. ERS 2611-77(2)

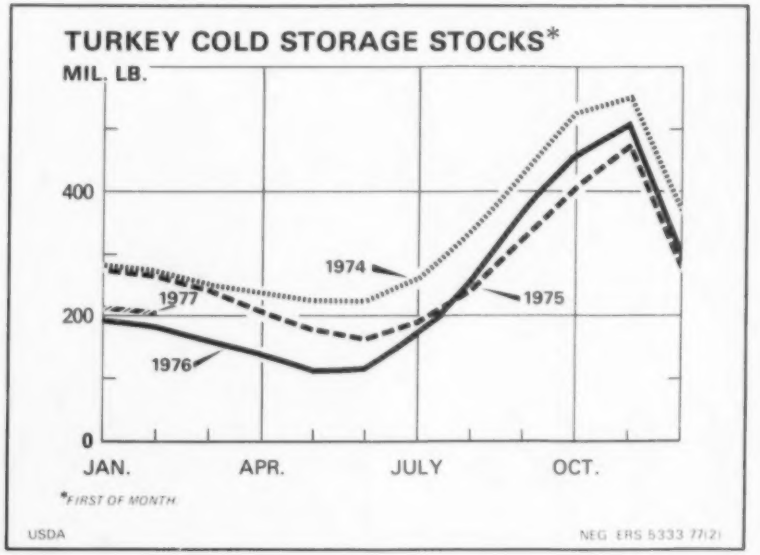

TURKEY COLD STORAGE STOCKS*
MIL. LB.
400
200
0
1974
1977
1975
1976
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*FIRST OF MONTH.
USDA
NEG. ERS 5333-77(2)

Table 13—Turkeys: Monthly hatchings by breed type, advanced to indicate prospective month of marketing, 1975-77

Month of marketing	Light breed advanced 4 months			Heavy breeds						All turkey: Sum of preceding columns*		
				Hens advanced 5 months			Toms advanced 6 months					
	1975	1976	1977	1975	1976	1977	1975	1976	1977	1975	1976	1977
	Million	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*
January	0.5	0.7	0.6	2.6	3.7	3.5	5.9	6.4	6.7	9.1	10.8	10.8
February	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.8	1.8	2.6	3.7	3.5	5.1	6.5	6.3
March	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.7	1.9	1.3	1.8	1.8	4.1	4.8	4.9
April	1.3	1.5	1.2	1.8	2.1	2.4	1.5	1.7	1.9	4.6	5.3	5.6
May	1.2	1.8	1.2	2.6	3.2	3.2	1.8	2.1	2.4	5.7	7.1	6.8
June	1.4	1.4		3.7	4.4	4.8	2.6	3.2	3.2	7.7	9.0	
July	1.4	1.9		5.3	6.1		3.7	4.4	4.8	10.5	12.4	
August	1.7	2.0		7.4	8.3		5.3	6.1		14.3	16.4	
September	1.5	1.8		8.5	8.9		7.4	8.3		17.4	19.0	
October	1.4	1.8		8.8	9.2		8.5	8.9		18.7	19.9	
November	1.5	1.9		8.1	8.9		8.8	9.2		18.4	19.9	
December	1.3	1.2		6.4	6.7		8.1	8.9		15.8	16.8	

*Details may not add exactly to totals due to rounding.

averaged around 50 cents a pound in mid-February, up 2 cents from a month earlier and slightly above a year earlier. Young tom prices have not strengthened as much, contrary to the pattern of recent months, when tom prices have run well ahead of hens.

Prospects for Second Half 1977

The demand for turkey in the second half of 1977 could exceed a year earlier. Prospects are for a gain in consumers' disposable income, increases in the number of people employed, and easing supplies of beef. Partially offsetting likely will be increased broiler supplies and lower than year-earlier pork prices during the summer.

Production costs for July-December turkey marketings could be below a year earlier if weather conditions result in large corn and soybean crops. However, if weather is unfavorable over widespread areas in the spring and summer, feed costs will remain relatively high and production costs will continue to trend upward. As a rule of thumb, a 10-cent-a-bushel change in corn prices or a $10-per-ton change in soybean meal (49-50 percent Decatur) causes about a four-tenths of a cent change in the cost of producing a pound of liveweight turkey. The cost of most other items used in production and marketing will likely continue to gain.

Turkey prices

Calendar quarters	Liveweight		New York wholesale			
			Young hens 8-16 pounds		Young toms 14-20 pounds	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Cents per pound					
I	31.4	32.7	48.6	49.5	46.3	47.6
II	31.1	31.7	51.1	48.2	46.6	49.3
III	35.5	30.9	57.1	48.5	55.3	47.7
IV	36.4	31.6	56.0	49.0	56.1	50.2
Annual	33.6	31.7	53.2	48.7	51.8	48.7

Tom turkey prices, 24-26 pounds, f.o.b. New York[1]

Month	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
	Cents per lb.	*Cents per lb.*	*Cents per lb.*	*Cents per lb.*	*Cents per lb.*
January	41.5	48.9	49.8	52.4	54.2
February	44.5	47.0	46.9	50.7	
March	51.1	45.6	44.6	53.7	
April	52.5	39.3	46.0	54.6	
May	57.6	41.1	47.0	60.0	
June	62.7	41.4	53.2	56.3	
July	64.2	37.4	54.4	56.3	
August	75.4	45.1	56.4	55.4	
September	77.0	46.5	57.9	51.3	
October	67.8	45.2	60.7	51.6	
November	57.7	46.9	60.1	51.6	
December	56.4	49.8	56.9	55.0	
Year	59.0	44.5	53.1	54.1	

[1] U.S. Grade A, frozen, ready-to-cook, carlots or truckIots.

Cold storage turkey stocks on July 1 may differ little from the 178 million pounds of July 1, 1976. First half 1977 turkey meat production may about equal year-earlier levels and January 1 stocks were only 8 million pounds above January 1, 1976. However, much will depend on how well further processed turkey moves during the first half of 1977. In the first half of 1976, 117 million pounds of turkey meat were further processed in whole-bird form

and another 246 million pounds were further processed in other than whole-bird form. Cut-up accounted for another 168 million pounds. Since last September, producers have hatched 8 percent more heavy-type poults than a year earlier, but 18 percent fewer light-type hatch. The heavier birds lend themselves to further processing. Thus, further processed and cut-up movement will likely have to increase from 1976 if July 1, 1977 stocks equal a year earlier.

For the second half of 1977, wholesale prices for 8-16 pound young hens in New York would average 1 to 3 cents a pound above the 49-cent average of a year earlier, if there is no buildup in cold storage stocks of turkey, consumer incomes and supplies of competing meats are about as expected, and turkey production is held near year-earlier levels. With these same conditions a 10-percent change in production would result in an 8-percent change in turkey prices in the opposide direction.

It may be misleading to correlate wholesale prices at New York for 8-16 pound young hen turkeys with total turkey meat supplies. Frozen young hen turkeys without any further processing (such as basting) are accounting for less and less of total turkey supply. In the second half of 1976, whole bird further processing accounted for 21 percent of total turkey supplies (July-December production plus July 1 stocks). Further processing in other than whole-bird form made up another 23 percent, while cut-up took 14 percent. It is difficult to ascertain from available data what influence the further processed and cut-up products have on demand for frozen young hen turkeys.

We show the impact of changes in total turkey supplies on New York wholesale prices for frozen 8-16 pound young hen turkeys because it is a price series used frequently in the turkey industry. Also, we do not have any sufficient breakdown in slaughter and market prices to show the impact of changes in various classes of turkey meat on the corresponding market prices.

Table 14—Estimated 2nd half 1977 turkey price/production relationships[1]

Total federally inspected slaughter of turkey		Estimated New York wholesale price for young hen turkeys[2]
Million pounds	Percent change from year earlier	
		Cents per pound
1,165	-15	56-59
1,235	-10	54-57
1,305	-5	52-55
1,375	0	[3] 50-53
1,445	+5	48-51
1,515	+10	46-49
1,585	+15	44-47

[1] Based on historical relationships during July-December 1963-75. [2] Simple average for 8-16 pound young hen turkeys, f.o.b. dock or equivalent in carlots or trucklots, U.S. Grade A, frozen, ready-to-cook. [3] The estimated 50-53 cents per pound is based on prospective conditions for competing meats, general economic activity, and cold storage holdings of turkey meat and assumes no change from a year earlier in the federally inspected slaughter of turkey.

The prices other than the base 50-53 cents per pound were estimated by assuming the same conditions as under the base for competing meats, economic activity, and cold storage holdings but various changes from a year earlier in the slaughter of turkey.

1976 Turkey Crop Record

The 1976 turkey crop totaled a record 140 million turkeys, up 12 percent from 1975 and nearly 6 percent more than the previous record in 1973. In 1976, heavy breed turkeys raised gained 11 percent to 121.6 million while light breeds at 18.2 million were up 21 percent from 1975.

The final liveweight production of turkeys will not be released until early April. But output in federally inspected plants for all of 1976 totaled almost 2½ billion pounds (liveweight), up nearly 14 percent from 1975. The number of birds marketed gained almost 12½ percent to 134.3 million and the average marketing weight rose a little over 1 percent to 18.3 pounds liveweight. First half output was up more than a fourth but tapered off in the

Table 15—Turkey: Supply and utilization, July-December 1965-76

Year	Production	Beginning stocks	Total supply	Ending stocks	Exports and shipments	Military	Civilian disappearance	Population	Per capita
	Million pounds	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million*	*Pounds*
1965	1,336	70	1,406	200	43	26	1,137	192.2	5.9
1966	1,440	70	1,510	267	34	34	1,175	193.8	6.1
1967	1,566	160	1,726	367	34	31	1,294	195.8	6.6
1968	1,353	185	1,538	317	26	39	1,157	197.6	5.8
1969	1,345	119	1,464	192	25	31	1,216	199.8	6.1
1970	1,439	95	1,534	219	30	29	1,256	202.4	6.2
1971	1,386	140	1,527	223	18	23	1,263	204.8	6.2
1972	1,471	143	1,615	208	31	18	1,358	206.9	6.6
1973	1,458	137	1,595	281	35	25	1,253	208.5	6.0
1974	1,318	266	1,584	275	35	13	1,261	210.2	5.9
1975	1,326	193	1,520	195	36	13	1,276	212.0	6.0
1976	1,441	178	1,619	203	36	10	1,367	213.4	6.4

Turkey slaughtered in Federally inspected plants

Calendar quarters	Number inspected		Average live weight		Certified	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*Lb.*	*Lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*
I	12.3	14.7	17.1	17.9	166.4	206.6
II	21.8	27.1	16.7	17.2	289.0	368.5
III	44.0	49.6	17.9	18.1	625.5	710.4
IV	41.4	43.0	19.3	19.5	635.2	664.5
Annual	119.4	134.3	18.4	18.3	1,716.1	1,950.1

second half. October-December output was only up 5 percent.

Exports and Shipments Up in 1976

Exports and shipments in 1976 totaled 71 million pounds, up 18.5 million from 1975. Exports of whole turkey and turkey parts (excluding livers) totaled 65 million pounds, up 38 percent from 1975 and 11 percent more than the previous high in 1965. In 1976, over half of our turkey exports went to two countries. West Germany took 22.8 million pounds and Canada 12.4 million pounds. The next largest importer of U.S. turkeys in 1976 was the United Kingdom with only 4.8 million pounds. Turkey parts accounted for 68 percent of the exports, about the same as the previous year.

In addition, shipments to U.S. territories in 1976 totaled almost 6 million pounds. This compares with a little more than 5 million pounds in 1975.

USDA Purchases Large in 1976

Purchases of young turkeys and cooked turkey rolls for use in child nutrition and elderly feeding programs in 1976 totaled the equivalent of about 64 million pounds of ready-to-cook carcass turkey. USDA purchased 37 million pounds of ready-to-cook young turkey and 17 million pounds of cooked turkey rolls. This was the largest USDA purchase of young turkey and turkey rolls since 1967 and well above the relatively small purchases of only 22 million pounds in 1975. Total purchases in 1976 were equal to around 3 percent of total production. Total costs of the 1976 program were $18.7 million for young turkey and $15.3 million for turkey rolls. Purchases of young turkeys were ended in early November but turkey roll purchases were continued to February 24 this year. Purchases of rolls so far in 1977 totaled 9 million pounds.

Turkey Consumption

Turkey meat use during 1976 gained about a half pound from the 8.6 pounds per person consumed in 1975. This would be slightly above the record 9 pounds consumed in 1972. Consumption did not increase as much as production largely because of a small increase in cold storage stocks during the year and larger exports and shipments.

Table 16—Cold storage holdings of high protein foods

Item	Unit	January 1		February 1	
		1976	1977	1976	1977
	Thousands	*Thousands*	*Thousands*	*Thousands*	*Thousands*
Total eggs[1]	Case	940	689	818	693
Shell	do.	22	28	14	23
Frozen	Pound	36,265	26,092	31,747	26,446
Total poultry	do.	313,612	362,810	296,130	340,694
Total chicken	do.	114,654	154,523	106,525	142,507
Broilers, fryers and roasters	do.	22,312	32,909	20,196	28,925
Hens	do.	39,220	42,112	34,679	40,912
Other frozen chicken	do.	53,122	79,502	51,650	72,670
Total turkey	do.	195,177	203,355	186,762	192,962
Whole	do.	146,762	147,754	138,431	137,580
Other	do.	48,415	55,601	48,331	55,382
Ducks	do.	3,781	4,932	2,843	5,225
All red meats[2]	do.	675,219	[3]733,323	[3]643,415	[3]743,742
Beef	do.	349,754	453,549	342,751	473,984
Frozen pork	do.	233,658	212,142	216,726	198,480
Pork in cooler	do.	15,487	([4])	([4])	([4])
Total cheese	do.	367,788	478,423	362,318	483,662

[1] Frozen eggs converted on the basis of 39.5 pounds to the case. [2] Includes other meat and meat products. [3] All red meats do not include cooler beef and cooler pork. [4] Not reported.

Table 17—Estimated costs and returns for market eggs[1]

Calendar quarters	Production costs all eggs		Wholesale, cartoned Grade A large eggs		Net returns[2 3 5]
	Feed[2]	Total[2]	Total costs[2 3]	14 metro areas price[2]	
	Cents per dozen	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*
Annual average[2]					
1972	17.3	28.9	43.3	40.5	-2.8
1973	29.2	41.7	58.1	64.3	6.2
1974	31.0	45.4	63.5	63.0	-0.4
1975	29.0	43.5	61.8	62.9	1.0
1976[4]	28.6	43.1	61.6	69.9	8.2
1974					
I	31.2	45.6	63.6	72.3	8.6
II	27.5	41.9	59.9	52.1	-7.8
III	31.4	45.8	63.8	59.9	-3.9
IV	34.1	48.5	66.6	67.8	1.2
1975					
I	30.8	45.3	63.6	65.0	1.3
II	28.3	42.8	61.1	55.3	-5.7
III	29.3	43.8	62.1	61.9	-0.2
IV	27.8	42.3	60.6	69.1	8.5
1976[4]					
I	26.9	41.4	59.9	67.7	7.9
II	27.9	42.4	60.9	62.5	1.7
III	31.4	45.9	64.4	71.2	6.8
IV	28.4	42.9	61.4	77.9	16.5

[1] Based on secondary data and incomplete data from survey. Estimated by computerized formula. [2] Weighted by monthly egg production less estimated eggs used for hatching. [3] Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market values for Grade A large eggs. [4] Preliminary. [5] May not add across due to rounding.

Table 18—Estimated costs and returns for broilers[1]

Calendar quarters	Production costs liveweight		Wholesale ready-to-cook		Net returns[2 3 5]
	Feed[2]	Total[2]	Total costs[2 3]	9-city weighted average price[2]	
	Cents per pound	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*
Annual average[2]					
1972	9.0	14.3	28.2	28.2	-0.1
1973	16.4	22.2	39.8	42.4	2.6
1974	15.8	22.0	40.1	38.0	-2.0
1975	15.1	21.3	39.4	45.2	5.8
1976[4]	15.0	21.3	39.8	40.2	.4
1974					
I	16.1	22.3	40.5	39.3	-1.2
II	15.2	21.3	39.2	35.3	-3.9
III	14.5	20.7	38.3	37.6	-0.7
IV	17.7	23.8	42.6	40.4	-2.3
1975					
I	16.4	22.6	41.3	41.2	0.0
II	14.5	20.7	38.7	43.7	5.0
III	14.6	20.8	38.7	50.3	11.6
IV	15.0	21.2	39.3	45.1	5.8
1976[4]					
I	13.7	20.0	38.0	42.1	4.2
II	14.1	20.4	38.5	41.7	3.2
III	16.5	22.8	41.8	41.5	-0.3
IV	15.8	22.1	40.8	35.5	-5.3

[1] Based on secondary data and incomplete data from survey. Estimated by computerized formula. [2] Weighted by monthly broiler slaughter. [3] Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market values for ready-to-cook broilers. [4] Preliminary. [5] May not add across due to rounding.

Table 19—Estimated costs and returns for turkeys[1]

Calendar quarters	Production costs liveweight		Wholesale ready-to-cook		Net returns[2 3 5]
	Feed[2]	Total[3]	Total costs[2 3]	New York young hen price[2]	
	Cents per pound	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*
Annual average[2]					
1972	13.5	20.5	34.1	36.6	2.5
1973	25.6	33.1	50.6	64.5	13.9
1974	22.5	30.7	48.8	47.0	-1.8
1975	22.1	30.7	49.4	55.1	5.8
1976[4]	22.5	31.5	50.8	48.6	-2.3
1974					
I	22.1	30.3	48.4	49.9	1.6
II	23.6	31.8	50.2	39.2	-11.0
III	19.9	28.1	45.6	45.6	-0.1
IV	24.8	33.0	51.7	52.1	0.4
1975					
I	25.6	34.2	53.8	48.9	-4.9
II	21.6	30.2	48.7	51.7	3.0
III	21.3	29.9	48.4	57.1	8.7
IV	22.2	30.8	49.5	56.5	7.0
1976[4]					
I	20.2	29.2	48.0	49.4	1.4
II	20.5	29.5	48.4	48.1	-0.4
III	22.6	31.6	51.0	48.5	-2.5
IV	24.1	33.1	52.8	48.7	-4.2

[1] Based on secondary data and incomplete data from survey. Estimated by computerized formula. [2] Weighted by monthly turkey slaughter. [3] Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market values for heavy young turkey hens. [4] Preliminary. [5] May not add across due to rounding.

Table 20—Chickens: Number on Farms by classes and by regions, December 1, 1970-76

Year	North Atlantic	E. North Central	W. North Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Western	Alaska and Hawaii	United States
	1,000 head	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*
				HENS ONE YEAR OLD OR OLDER				
1970	17,659	17,410	15,949	26,607	26,267	30,118	533	134,543
1971	18,101	18,292	16,333	27,756	26,003	31,132	540	138,157
1972	18,108	17,428	16,487	28,725	24,476	26,235	550	132,206
1973	18,243	15,882	15,815	25,649	24,062	27,372	465	127,488
1974	15,566	14,511	12,901	26,506	21,593	29,489	639	121,205
1975	18,714	14,320	13,632	23,889	20,728	30,936	636	121,626
1976	16,967	13,520	12,803	22,528	19,714	30,981	655	117,168
				PULLETS OF LAYING AGE				
1970	26,298	26,637	26,987	41,095	41,778	26,076	431	189,302
1971	26,168	26,124	24,810	40,448	40,361	24,546	439	182,896
1972	25,118	25,015	21,453	36,291	39,249	22,278	436	169,840
1973	23,738	23,365	21,291	39,464	37,046	23,523	547	168,974
1974	24,874	23,518	21,379	34,423	36,366	22,837	427	163,824
1975	20,934	23,354	19,992	35,953	35,975	20,423	343	156,974
1976	20,724	23,255	19,617	38,380	39,181	21,786	385	163,328
				TOTAL HENS AND PULLETS OF LAYING AGE				
1970	43,957	44,047	42,936	67,702	68,045	56,194	964	323,845
1971	44,269	44,416	41,143	68,204	66,364	55,678	979	321,053
1972	43,306	42,443	38,057	65,016	63,725	48,513	986	302,046
1973	41,981	39,247	37,106	65,113	61,108	50,895	1,012	296,462
1974	40,440	38,029	34,280	60,929	57,959	52,326	1,066	285,029
1975	39,648	37,674	33,624	59,842	56,703	51,359	979	279,829
1976	37,691	36,775	32,420	60,908	58,895	52,767	1,040	280,496
				PULLETS 3 MONTHS OLD AND OLDER NOT OF LAYING AGE				
1970	5,147	6,380	5,374	12,398	12,194	8,618	181	50,292
1971	5,674	6,313	5,584	12,729	12,905	7,478	191	50,874
1972	5,346	5,763	4,784	12,921	12,624	7,201	195	48,834
1973	6,629	6,106	5,191	13,224	13,594	7,711	138	52,593
1974	5,596	6,149	5,127	11,558	10,830	7,303	155	46,718
1975	5,967	5,808	4,876	13,365	10,972	6,889	127	48,004
1976	6,272	5,437	5,009	12,273	12,354	6,829	87	48,261
				PULLETS UNDER 3 MONTHS OLD				
1970	4,935	6,368	4,385	14,664	12,587	9,870	260	53,069
1971	5,365	6,269	3,833	12,062	12,350	7,137	270	47,286
1972	5,301	5,650	4,162	12,507	12,330	9,015	185	49,155
1973	6,335	6,599	5,039	15,857	13,788	9,507	182	57,307
1974	6,272	5,865	4,067	12,071	11,045	6,853	130	46,303
1975	5,622	6,005	4,175	12,051	11,309	6,716	162	46,040
1976	5,701	5,986	3,708	11,549	11,598	5,846	158	44,546
				OTHER CHICKENS				
1970	564	391	598	2,157	2,480	506	1	6,697
1971	549	399	565	2,163	2,289	397	1	6,363
1972	560	340	529	2,113	2,349	314	1	6,206
1973	559	348	457	2,070	2,390	316	1	6,141
1974	492	299	452	1,894	1,980	411	1	5,529
1975	407	306	414	1,811	2,073	355	1	5,367
1976	374	291	344	1,973	2,282	373	1	5,638
				TOTAL ALL CHICKENS[1]				
1970	54,603	57,186	53,293	96,921	95,306	75,188	1,406	433,903
1971	55,857	57,397	51,125	95,158	93,908	70,690	1,441	425,576
1972	54,518	54,196	47,532	92,557	91,028	65,043	1,367	406,241
1973	55,504	52,300	47,793	96,264	90,880	68,429	1,333	412,503
1974	52,800	50,342	43,926	86,452	81,814	66,893	1,352	383,579
1975	51,644	49,793	43,089	87,069	81,057	65,319	1,269	379,240
1976	50,038	48,489	41,481	86,703	85,129	65,815	1,286	378,941

[1] Excluding commercial broilers.

Table 21—Prices and price spreads for large eggs, 1974-76[1]

Item	Annual average 1974	Annual average 1975	Annual average 1976	October 1975	November 1975	December 1975	October 1976	November 1976	December 1976
	Cents per dozen	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*
10-City average prices									
Farm price	51.8	49.4	54.2	48.3	50.5	58.1	56.2	57.8	65.3
Price to retailer	65.6	64.9	[2] 71.5	64.2	65.5	73.5	73.3	73.5	81.3
Retail price	78.1	76.9	83.8	77.4	78.4	85.6	87.0	87.3	93.8
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	26.3	27.5	29.6	29.1	27.9	27.5	30.8	29.5	28.5
Farm to retailer	13.8	15.5	17.3	15.9	15.0	15.4	17.1	15.7	16.0
Retail	12.5	12.0	12.3	13.2	12.9	12.1	13.7	13.8	12.5
New York Prices									
Farm Price	50.4	48.0	53.8	46.6	55.0	56.7	55.8	58.2	66.0
Price to retailer	64.6	64.0	69.2	63.0	69.5	72.3	71.3	73.7	81.3
Retail price	85.3	84.8	91.4	86.0	87.8	94.0	97.6	92.3	103.7
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	34.9	36.8	37.6	39.4	32.8	37.3	41.8	34.1	37.7
Farm to retailer	14.2	16.0	15.4	16.4	14.5	15.6	15.5	15.5	15.3
Retail	20.7	20.8	22.2	23.0	18.3	21.7	26.3	18.6	22.4
Boston prices									
Farm price	53.3	52.1	56.1	50.4	52.7	59.6	55.5	62.9	69.9
Price to retailer	66.5	66.6	70.5	65.5	66.0	73.5	69.5	77.5	82.5
Retail price	85.5	83.8	91.0	86.6	80.3	92.2	90.6	95.8	102.1
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	32.2	31.7	34.9	36.2	27.6	32.6	35.1	32.9	32.2
Farm to retailer	13.2	14.5	14.4	15.1	13.3	13.9	14.0	14.6	12.6
Retail	19.0	17.2	20.5	21.1	14.3	18.7	21.1	18.3	19.6
Chicago prices									
Farm price	48.3	46.1	52.7	45.9	45.8	55.9	54.8	56.5	64.6
Price to retailer	63.6	62.2	69.2	61.5	62.0	71.5	73.0	72.5	80.5
Retail price	80.0	74.1	83.8	74.1	75.0	85.4	88.8	86.7	91.5
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	31.7	28.0	31.1	28.2	29.2	29.5	34.0	30.2	26.9
Farm to retailer	15.3	16.1	16.5	15.6	16.2	15.6	18.2	16.0	15.9
Retail	16.4	11.9	14.6	12.6	13.0	13.9	15.8	14.2	11.0
St. Louis prices									
Farm price	52.3	50.4	57.1	50.2	51.2	60.2	59.2	61.2	69.2
Price to retailer	65.0	63.2	69.2	61.5	62.0	72.0	72.0	72.0	80.0
Retail price	76.5	74.8	81.4	75.7	75.0	83.4	85.3	82.8	89.9
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	24.2	24.4	24.3	25.5	23.8	23.2	26.1	21.6	20.7
Farm to retailer	12.7	12.8	12.1	11.3	10.8	11.8	12.8	10.8	10.8
Retail	11.5	11.6	12.2	14.2	13.0	11.4	13.3	10.8	9.9
Atlanta prices									
Farm prices	50.0	46.2	53.0	45.0	46.0	56.0	55.0	57.0	65.0
Price to retailer	63.8	62.5	68.6	63.5	61.5	71.5	71.7	70.5	78.7
Retail price	78.0	76.9	82.5	78.1	79.3	85.8	86.1	87.6	96.1
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	28.0	30.7	29.5	33.1	33.3	29.8	31.1	30.6	31.1
Farm to retailer	13.8	16.3	15.6	18.5	15.5	15.5	16.7	13.5	13.7
Retail	14.2	14.4	13.9	14.6	17.8	14.3	14.4	17.1	17.4

[1] Selected cities and 10-city average. [2] 11 month average.

Table 22—Prices and price spreads for frying chickens, 1974-1976[1]

Item	Annual average 1974	Annual average 1975	Annual average 1976	October 1975	November 1975	December 1975	October 1976	November 1976	December 1976
	Cents per pound	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*
10-City average prices									
Farm price	30.0	35.7	30.9	38.5	38.0	35.8	27.3	26.3	25.8
Price to retailer	42.3	49.4	45.5	52.4	51.7	48.7	42.3	40.9	40.4
Retail price	57.0	64.3	61.2	67.9	68.2	66.1	57.7	56.2	55.4
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	27.0	28.6	30.3	29.4	30.2	30.3	30.4	29.9	29.6
Farm to retailer	12.3	13.7	14.6	13.9	13.7	12.9	15.0	14.6	14.6
Retail	14.7	14.9	15.7	15.5	16.5	17.4	15.4	15.3	15.0
New York prices									
Farm price	30.1	36.8	31.2	39.5	39.1	36.8	27.7	26.9	25.5
Price to retailer	41.1	48.5	43.6	50.5	50.5	51.0	40.5	39.5	38.0
Retail price	60.6	68.1	65.1	71.2	70.8	72.5	63.1	62.5	61.8
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	30.5	31.3	33.9	31.7	31.7	35.7	35.4	35.6	36.3
Farm to retailer	11.0	11.7	12.4	11.0	11.4	14.2	12.8	12.6	12.5
Retail	19.5	19.6	21.5	20.7	20.3	21.5	22.6	23.0	23.8
Boston prices									
Farm price	30.4	37.4	31.5	39.8	39.5	37.5	28.1	27.3	25.6
Price to retailer	40.6	48.0	44.7	51.5	51.0	46.8	40.3	39.7	39.3
Retail price	62.0	70.1	66.4	73.6	76.4	70.7	64.2	62.0	56.8
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	31.6	32.7	34.9	33.8	36.9	33.2	36.1	34.7	31.2
Farm to retailer	10.2	10.6	13.2	11.7	11.5	9.3	12.2	12.4	13.7
Retail	21.4	22.1	21.7	22.1	25.4	23.9	23.9	22.3	17.5
Chicago prices									
Farm price	28.7	34.9	29.6	37.4	37.7	34.6	25.6	25.2	25.3
Price to retailer	40.9	48.2	43.7	51.0	49.3	48.0	41.0	38.3	38.5
Retail price	55.7	63.8	59.4	67.2	65.7	66.0	50.6	51.0	53.7
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	27.0	28.9	29.8	29.8	28.0	31.4	25.0	25.8	28.4
Farm to retailer	12.2	13.3	14.1	13.6	11.6	13.4	15.4	13.1	13.2
Retail	14.8	15.6	15.7	16.2	16.4	18.0	9.6	12.7	15.2
St. Louis prices									
Farm price	29.6	35.2	29.9	37.7	37.9	35.1	25.8	25.4	25.5
Price to retailer	42.7	49.4	44.0	50.7	51.0	48.3	40.5	37.5	37.5
Retail	58.1	64.6	62.4	67.0	68.1	64.1	58.8	54.8	56.7
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	28.5	29.4	32.5	29.3	30.2	29.0	33.0	29.4	31.2
Farm to retailer	13.1	14.2	14.1	13.0	13.1	13.2	14.7	12.1	12.0
Retail	15.4	15.2	18.4	16.3	17.1	15.8	18.3	17.3	19.2
San Francisco prices									
Farm price	32.1	35.1	32.2	37.1	35.3	35.8	29.2	27.5	27.0
Price to retailer	47.7	54.9	53.0	56.5	58.5	55.5	50.5	51.0	51.0
Retail price	60.2	65.6	64.9	70.8	71.0	65.8	62.4	59.4	61.8
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	28.1	30.5	32.7	33.7	35.7	30.0	33.2	31.9	34.8
Farm to retailer	15.6	19.8	20.8	19.4	23.2	19.7	21.3	23.5	24.0
Retail	12.5	10.7	11.9	14.3	12.5	10.3	11.9	8.4	10.8
Atlanta prices									
Farm price	28.8	34.6	29.3	37.3	37.4	34.1	25.5	24.9	25.0
Price to retailer	40.1	46.0	41.3	48.5	48.8	46.3	37.3	36.3	36.5
Retail price	55.6	60.5	58.7	64.3	67.9	63.2	59.6	49.9	50.8
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	26.8	25.9	29.4	27.0	30.5	29.1	34.1	25.0	25.8
Farm to retailer	11.3	11.4	12.0	11.2	11.4	12.2	11.8	11.4	11.5
Retail	15.5	14.5	17.4	15.8	19.1	16.9	22.3	13.6	14.3

[1] Selected cities and 10-city average. [2] 9-city average.

COSTS OF TURKEY AND FOWL PROCESSING AND EGG BREAKING IN MAJOR REGIONS

by
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ABSTRACT: Records from 16 turkey processing plants indicated average packing costs per pound of ready-to-cook young heavy turkeys of almost 7.3 cents in 1973-1975, with fixed costs averaging about 1.5 cents and the balance variable costs. Additional costs incurred by plants for product assembly and distribution were about 2.8 cents per pound. For 13 processing plants, costs of processing ready-to-cook fowl averaged about 7.6 cents during 1973-74, with fixed costs averaging over 1.6 cents. Additional costs averaging about 2.9 cents were incurred for fowl assembly and distribution.

Based on records from 18 egg breaking plants and secondary data, average breaking costs per pound of liquid egg equivalent averaged almost 6.2 cents in 1973-75, with almost 1.4 cents for fixed costs. Additional costs for assembly and distribution averaged 2.3 cents per pound.

KEYWORDS: Turkeys, fowl, egg breaking, processing, assembly, distribution, costs, marketing.

Little comprehensive information has been available in recent years on the costs of processing turkeys and fowl and of egg breaking. Data on such operations, plus the associated plant assembly and distributing operations, were collected under cooperative agreements between the Missouri, Georgia, and Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Stations and the Economic Research Service. Current costs are likely somewhat higher than those summarized in tables 1-3 because of sharply higher costs for packaging and energy and smaller increases for labor and other inputs.

Turkey Processing

Records for 1973-75 from 16 turkey processing plants in three major regions showed total costs averaging almost 10.1 cents per pound of ready-to-cook heavy young turkey (table 1). About 7.3 cents were for inplant costs. Of the inplant costs, about 43 percent was for wages and salaries, almost 24 percent for packaging materials, about 13 percent

Table 1—Turkey processing plant costs, major regions, 1973-75

Item	Heavy young turkeys[1]	
	Midwest So. 1973-74	West 1973-75
	(Cents per lb., RTC wt.)	
Wages, salaries, fringe benefits	2.73	3.56
Packaging, supplies	1.57	1.89
Utilities, ice, freezing, storage, misc.	.88	1.05
Total plant operating costs	5.18	6.50
Total plant overhead costs[2]	1.24	1.64
Total plant costs[3]	6.42	8.14
Total assembly costs	.95	.97
Total distribution costs[4]	2.02	1.66
Total all costs	9.39	10.77
Number of plants covered by cost data	9	7
Volume (mil. lbs. RTC)[5]	239	159

[1] Hens and toms combined. Costs do not include further-processing operations. [2] Depreciation, repairs and maintenance, rent, taxes, interest, insurance on buildings and equipment. [3] Plant costs on fryer-roaster turkeys were about 2 cents per pound higher than on heavy young turkeys. [4] Reflects local distribution costs plus some long-distance hauling. [5] Per year.

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utilities and miscellaneous, and almost 20 percent for overhead costs. Inplant costs averaged highest on the West Coast.

Of the 2.8 cents for assembly and distribution costs, less than a penny was for loading and hauling live turkeys from farms to plants. The balance was both for distributing within consuming markets and long-distance hauling of ready-to-cook products.

The turkey processing plants accounted for about 15 percent of the plants which slaughter predominantly turkeys, and almost 22 percent of the volume. For the sample plants, about 80 percent of the output was frozen, almost 9 percent ice-packed and over 11 percent deep-chill, etc. Whole ready-to-cook birds accounted for almost 62 percent, cut-up for 13 percent, and the balance of over 25 percent was further-processed by the same plants. Over 50 percent was sold to retailers, 14 percent to distributors, almost 7 percent to institutions, over 2 percent was exported, and the remainder of nearly 27 percent was used directly by further-processing plants.

Fowl Processing

Records for 1973-74 from 13 fowl processing plants in three major regions showed total costs averaging about 10.5 cents per pound of ready-to-cook fowl (table 2). About 7.6 cents were for inplant costs. Of the inplant costs, almost 57 percent was for wages and salaries, almost 14 percent for packaging materials, over 8 percent for utilities and miscellaneous, and over 21 percent for overhead costs. Inplant costs averaged highest on the West Coast.

Table 2—Fowl processing plant costs, major regions, 1973-74[1]

Item	Midwest So, 1973-74	West 1973-74
	(Cents per lb., RTC Wt.)	
Wages, salaries, fringe benefits	3.83	4.81
Packaging, supplies	1.06	1.00
Utilities, ice, freezing, storage, misc.	.64	.65
Total plant operating costs	5.53	6.46
Total plant overhead costs[2]	1.25	1.98
Total plant costs	6.78	8.44
Total assembly costs	1.54	1.10
Total distribution costs[3]	1.50	1.67
Total all costs	9.82	11.01
Number of plants covered by cost data	8	5
Volume (mil. lbs. RTC)[4]	132	24

[1] Mainly light fowl. Costs do not include further-processing operations. [2] Depreciation, repairs and maintenance, rent, taxes, interest, insurance on buildings and equipment. [3] Reflects local distribution costs plus some long-distance hauling. [4] Per year.

Of the 2.9 cents for assembly and distribution costs, over 1.3 cents was for loading and hauling live fowl from farms to plants. The balance was both for distributing within consuming markets and long-distance hauling of ready-to-cook products.

The fowl processing plants accounted for about 9 percent of the plants which slaughter any fowl, but about 30 percent of the plants which slaughter predominantly fowl and about 30 percent of total fowl slaughter. For the sample plants, over 70 percent was ice-packed, nearly 8 percent deep chill etc., and over 22 percent was frozen. Whole ready-to-cook birds accounted for over 77 percent, cut-up for about 2 percent, and the balance of nearly 21 percent was further-processed by the same plants. Nearly 15 percent was sold to retailers, almost 18 percent to distributors, over 6 percent to institutions, less than 1 percent was exported, and the remainder of over 60 percent was used directly by further-processing plants.

Egg Breaking

Records from 18 egg breaking plants and updated budgets from other studies indicated total costs for 1973-75 averaging about 8.4 cents per pound of liquid egg equivalent (table 3). About 6.2 cents were for inplant costs. Of the inplant costs,

Table 3—Egg breaking plant costs, major regions, 1973-75[1]

Item	Midwest 1973-74	West Coast 1973-75	South Northeast 1973-74[2]
	(Cents per lb., liquid egg weight)		
Wages, salaries, fringe benefits	2.45	2.37	2.40
Packaging, supplies[3]	1.53	2.43	1.80
Utilities, freezing, storage, misc.	.43	.40	.43
Total plant operating costs	4.41	5.20	4.63
Total plant overhead costs[4]	1.49	1.38	1.30
Total plant costs	5.90	6.58	5.93
Total assembly costs[5]	1.25	1.07	1.06
Total distribution costs[6]	1.46	.75	1.15
Total all costs	8.61	8.40	8.14
Number of plants covered by costs data	12	6	---
Volume (mil. cases of shell eggs broken)[7]	2.4	1.1	---

[1] Does not include egg drying costs. Includes machine and hand breaking and various plant sizes. [2] Estimated from previously published studies by updating with cost indexes. [3] Survey average for liquid and frozen eggs. Includes container cost estimate where product is further-processed in same plant. [4] Depreciation, repairs and maintenance, rent, taxes, interest, insurance on buildings and equipment. [5] Estimated from shell egg assembly costs with allowance for greater distances as appropriate. [6] Reflects local distribution costs, plus some long-distance hauling and storage. [7] Per year.

about 39 percent was for wages and salaries, over 31 percent for packaging, almost 7 percent for utilities and miscellaneous, and over 22 percent for overhead costs. Inplant costs averaged higher on the West Coast, partly because more recent cost levels were included.

The 2.2 cents for egg assembly and product distribution was about equally divided between loading and hauling eggs from farms to plants, and distributing egg products within consuming markets and long-distance hauling.

The egg breaking plants accounted for over 12 percent of total plant numbers and about 19 percent of total egg breaking volume. For the sample plants, about 36 percent of the ultimate end-products were liquid eggs, 26 percent frozen eggs, and almost 38 percent dried eggs. Sales to bakeries and institutions amounted to over 31 percent, distributors almost 14 percent, exports under 3 percent, and food manufacturing (and manufacturers) over 51 percent, with the balance going to other plants and pet food uses.

TYPES OF PACKS AND PRODUCT FORMS PRODUCED BY FEDERALLY INSPECTED POULTRY PLANTS, 1973-75

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ABSTRACT: Slaughtering plants account for substantial shares of total output of cut-up and further-processed chickens and turkeys, and virtually all of the frozen packs. However, the number of non-slaughtering plants engaged in cutting-up and further-processing may be many times larger than the number of slaughtering plants performing these functions. Nationally, cutting-up is most important for young chickens, less so for turkeys, and minor for mature chickens. Further-processing is the major use of mature chickens, and is very important for turkeys, but relatively small for young chickens. At the slaughtering plant level, frozen packs predominate for turkeys and fresh packs for chickens.

KEYWORDS: Chickens, turkeys, packs, products, plant numbers.

Along with the growth in total output of poultry meat, changes have occurred in the relative importance of the various functions performed by slaughtering and non-slaughtering plants. Poultry slaughtering plants have become the major producers of frozen poultry, produce substantial shares of further-processed items, and produce the bulk of cut-up young chickens.

The accompanying tables contain regional comparisons of the relative importance for 1973-75 of federally inspected slaughtering and non-slaughtering plants in the production of various types of packs and product forms during 1973-75 and provide recent estimates of the numbers of plants involved. Comparisons are approximations since Federal inspection data categories are not completely exclusive and include interregional movements. There are pronounced regional variations in functions performed.

Federally inspected poultry processing plants account for more than 95 percent of the total number of chickens and turkeys produced. More than 1700 such plants were engaged in some type of poultry processing in 1973-75. Many of these plants performed more than one processing activity or processed more than one market class of chickens or turkeys.

Young Chickens

Nearly all of the U.S. output of federally inspected plants was fresh packs. Nationally, slaughtering plants produced nearly three-fourths of their volume as whole RTC (ready-to-cook) birds, and nearly one-fourth as cut-up. For all plants, whole RTC birds accounted for more than three-fifths, cut-up for over three-tenths, and further-processed for about 6 percent (table 1).

There were nearly three times as many non-slaughtering plants cutting up young chickens as slaughtering plants performing that function, and over 7 times as many non-slaughtering plants producing further-processed. However, slaughtering plants (263) accounted for virtually all frozen packs, almost 80 percent of the cut-up volume, and almost 40 percent of the further-processed output. Hence, volume of such items produced per slaughtering plant was much larger than the average output of non-slaughtering plants (tables 2 and 3).

Table 1—Regional percentages of chicken and turkey meat output in slaughtering plants and all plants, by pack and product form, 1973-75

Pack type and	Slaughtering plants[3]					
	Northeast	Midwest	South	West	U.S.	U.S.[5]
	Percent	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
			Young Chickens			
Type of pack:						
Fresh[1]	93.8	94.3	91.6	99.8	92.1	92.1
Frozen	6.2	5.7	8.4	0.2	7.9	7.9
Product form:						
Whole RTC[2]	54.8	74.3	75.4	62.6	73.5	62.7
Cut-up	35.6	23.5	22.6	37.3	24.1	30.9
Further-processed	9.6	2.2	2.0	0.1	2.4	6.4
			Mature Chickens			
Type of pack:						
Fresh[1]	95.3	91.9	78.8	50.4	81.8	81.8
Frozen	4.7	8.1	21.2	49.6	18.2	18.2
Product form:						
Whole RTC[2]	84.9	45.4	85.4	82.7	73.7	17.3
Cut-up	0.0	0.4	0.3	3.4	0.6	1.4
Further-processed	15.1	54.2	14.3	13.9	25.7	81.3
			Turkeys			
Type of pack:						
Fresh	33.8	23.9	14.4	15.8	19.4	18.7
Frozen	66.2	76.1	85.6	84.2	80.6	81.3
Product form:						
Whole RTC[2]	75.0	43.4	57.3	54.2	51.2	35.3
Cut-up	4.0	12.4	16.0	16.5	14.2	16.4
Further-processed						
Whole bird	3.1	25.5	15.1	17.1	19.8	20.1
Other	17.9	18.7	11.6	12.2	14.8	28.2
Total	21.0	44.2	26.7	29.3	34.6	48.3

[1] Total slaughter minus frozen equals fresh. Includes ice-packed, chill-pack, CO^2, etc. [2] Total slaughter minus cut-up and further-processed equals whole RTC. [3] Percentage of total slaughtering plant output only. [4] Percentage of all output, slaughtering plants and non-slaughtering plants. [5] Regional data not shown since interregional movements obscure comparisons.

More than 1,250 federally inspected plants were engaged in some type of processing of young chicken in 1973-75.

Mature Chickens

Over four-fifths of the U.S. output of federally-inspected plants was fresh packs. Nationally, slaughtering plants produced less than three-fourths of their volume as whole RTC birds, over one-fourth as further-processed, and under 1 percent as cut-up. But, for all plants, further-processed accounted for over four-fifths of output, compared with less than one-fifth as whole RTC and over 1 percent as cut-up (table 1).

As with young chickens there were many more non-slaughtering plants cutting-up or further processing mature chickens. However, slaughtering plants (152) still accounted for over 40 percent of the cut-up output and over 30 percent of the further-processed output. Volume of such items produced per slaughtering plant was much greater than average output per non-slaughtering plant (tables 2 and 4).

Almost 450 federally inspected plants were engaged in some type of processing of mature chickens in 1973-75.

Turkeys

Unlike young and mature chickens, over four-fifths of the U.S. output of federally inspected plants was frozen. Nationally, slaughtering plants produced about half of their volume as whole RTC birds, almost 15 percent as cut-up, and nearly 35 percent as further-processed. Whole bird processed (primarily self basting and stuffed birds) accounted for over 55 percent of total further-processed. For all plants, further-processed accounted for almost half, cut-up for over 15 percent, with about 35 percent as whole RTC birds. Further-processed (other than whole bird processed) accounted for over 58 percent of total further-processed (table 1).

Like young and mature chickens, slaughtering plants (139) accounted for most of the volume cut-up or further-processed. There were about the same number of non-slaughtering plants cutting-up tur-

Table 2—Regional percentages of total chicken and turkey meat output produced in slaughtering plants, by pack and product form, 1973-75

Pack and product form	Regions				
	Northeast	Midwest	South	West	U.S.
	Percent	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
			Young Chickens		
Pack:					
Fresh	100	100	100	100	100
Frozen	100	100	100	100	100
Product form:					
Whole RTC	100	100	100	100	100
Cut-up	48	33	91	70	78
Further-processed[1]	43	13	42	2	38
			Mature Chickens		
Pack:					
Fresh	100	100	100	100	100
Frozen	100	100	100	100	100
Product form:					
Whole RTC	100	100	100	100	100
Cut-up	0	20	50	76	43
Further-processed[1]	28	38	24	24	32
			Turkeys		
Pack:					
Fresh	100	100	100	100	100
Frozen	100	99	99	98	99
Product form:					
Whole RTC	100	100	100	100	100
Cut-up	15	91	85	98	87
Further-processed					
Whole bird	97	98	99	99	98
Other	20	55	55	65	52
Total	22	74	74	81	72

[1] Includes minor amounts of whole bird processed.

Table 3—Young chickens: Number of processing plants performing various functions, 1973-75

Plant group and function	Regions				
	Northeast	Midwest	South	West	U.S.
	Number	*Number*	*Number*	*Number*	*Number*
Slaughtering plants:[1 2]					
Freeze	9	18	75	4	106
Cut-up	23	22	152	18	215
Further-process[3]	14	6	27	3	50
Non-slaughtering plants:[2]					
Cut-up	252	232	144	122	750
Further-process[3]	128	101	85	57	371
Total all plants:[2]					
Slaughter	29	36	177	21	263
Freeze	9	18	75	4	106
Cut-up	275	254	296	140	965
Further-process[3]	142	107	112	60	421

[1] Slaughtering plants that perform additional functions. [2] Numbers not additive since some plants perform more than one of these functions. [3] Includes small number of whole-bird processed but mainly other further-processed.

keys or producing whole-bird further processed as slaughtering plants performing these functions, but other further-processing was carried out by over 4½ times as many non-slaughtering as slaughtering plants. Volume of such items per slaughtering plant was much greater than average output per non-slaughtering plant (tables 2 and 5).

Over 500 federally inspected plants were engaged in some type of processing of turkeys in 1973-75.

Table 4—Mature chickens: Number of processing plants performing various functions, 1973-75

Plant group and function	Regions				
	Northeast	Midwest	South	West	U.S.
	Number	*Number*	*Number*	*Number*	*Number*
Slaughtering plants:[1,2]					
Freeze	6	15	28	9	58
Cut-up	---	3	7	10	20
Further-process[3]	3	6	5	3	17
Non-slaughtering plants:[2]					
Cut-up	26	30	11	14	81
Further-process[1]	45	80	62	38	225
Total all plants:[2]					
Slaughter	20	35	74	23	152
Freeze	6	15	28	9	58
Cut-up	26	33	18	24	101
Further-process[3]	48	86	67	41	242

[1] Slaughtering plants that perform additional functions. [2] Numbers not additive since some perform more than one of these functions. [3] Include small number of whole-bird processed but mainly other further-processed.

Table 5—Turkeys: Number of processing plants performing various functions, 1973-75

Plant group and function	Regions				
	Northeast	Midwest	South	West	U.S.
	Number	*Number*	*Number*	*Number*	*Number*
Slaughtering plants:[1,2]					
Freeze	17	42	23	21	103
Cut-up	13	28	15	17	73
Further-processed					
Whole bird	3	18	10	7	38
Other	7	30	16	16	69
Non-slaughtering plants:[2]					
Cut-up	30	31	10	13	84
Further-processed					
Whole bird	8	7	8	9	32
Other	79	105	71	67	322
Total all plants:[2]					
Slaughter	29	54	27	29	139
Freeze	17	42	24	22	105
Cut-up	43	59	25	30	157
Further-processed					
Whole bird	11	25	18	16	70
Other	86	135	87	83	391

[1] Slaughtering plants that perform additional functions. [2] Numbers not additive since some plants perform more than one of these functions.

Table 23—Selected poultry and egg statistics*

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 1, 5-6.—Number of layers on farms, rate of egg production, and total egg output on farms, 50 States														
Average for the month														
Number of layers on farms														
1975	Mil.	285	282	280	276	272	271	270	272	275	278	279	280	277
1976	Mil.	281	280	278	274	271	270	270	272	275	279	281	276	
1977	Mil.	280												
Eggs laid per 100 layers														
1975	No.	1,953	1,771	1,972	1,922	1,991	1,933	1,996	1,991	1,914	1,906	1,905	1,968	233
1976	No.	1,971	1,855	2,005	1,955	2,020	1,961	2,014	1,992	1,916	1,970	1,906	1,971	235
1977	No.	1,956												
Total monthly egg production														
1975	Mil. cs.	15.4	13.9	15.3	14.7	15.1	14.5	15.0	15.0	14.6	15.2	14.8	15.3	178.8
1976	Mil. cs.	15.4	14.4	15.5	14.9	15.2	14.7	15.1	15.0	14.6	15.2	14.8	15.4	180.1
1977	Mil. cs.	15.2												
First of month														
Number of layers on farms														
1975	Mil.	286	284	281	278	274	271	270	270	273	276	279	280	
1976	Mil.	281	281	279	276	271	270	270	270	273	276	278	280	
1977	Mil.	276	278											
Eggs laid per 100 layers														
1975	No.	62.6	63.2	63.3	64.0	64.1	64.3	64.5	64.1	64.3	63.3	63.3	63.6	
1976	No.	63.4	63.8	64.2	65.1	65.1	65.1	65.5	64.4	64.1	63.7	63.4	63.7	
1977	No.	63.5	62.7											
Daily rate of egg production														
1975	Mil.	179	179	178	178	175	174	174	173	176	175	176	178	
1976	Mil.	178	179	179	180	177	176	177	174	175	176	176		
1977	Mil.	179	174											
Tables 7-9.—Factors in monthly supply of shell eggs, 50 States														
Eggs produced on farms														
1975	1,000 cs.	15,444	13,892	15,317	14,725	15,068	14,528	14,975	15,019	14,608	15,153	14,775	15,325	178,725
1976	1,000 cs.	15,367	14,425	15,472	14,875	15,211	14,711	15,904	15,039	14,611	15,150	14,778	15,406	1801
1977	1,000 cs.	15,200												
Storage movement of shell eggs														
1975	1,000 cs.	-4	16	-16	-6	42	14	2	-4	-8	-17	-15	-18	-14
1976	1,000 cs.	-8	7	5	0	-4	3	33	8	-20	-12	-9	3	6
1977	1,000 cs.	-5												
Eggs broken commercially														
1975	1,000 cs.	1,441	1,218	1,215	1,455	1,651	1,898	1,957	1,738	1,698	1,702	1,234	1,229	18,436
1976	1,000 cs.	1,257	1,252	1,722	1,690	1,571	1,866	1,752	1,753	1,781	1,753	1,739		
977	1,000 cs.													
Eggs used for hatching														
1975	1,000 cs.	933	1,096	1,093	1,128	1,069	1,046	1,027	953	965	959	1,025	1,063	12,357
1976	1,000 cs.	1,040	1,213	1,221	1,244	1,184	1,153	1,125	1,041	1,029	1,026	1,077	1,130	13,483
1977	1,000 cs.													
Balance														
1975	1,000 cs.	13,074	11,562	13,025	12,148	12,307	11,570	11,989	12,332	11,953	12,509	12,531	13,051	148,
1976	1,000 cs.	13,078	11,953	12,524	11,941	12,460	11,689	12,184	12,237	11,821	112,383	11,971		
1977														
Tables 13-14.—Commercial production of poultry and red meat, 48 States														
Chicken and turkey meat, Ready-to-cook weight[1]														
1975	Mil. lb.	781	676	736	825	831	884	967	942	978	1,067	834	914	10,434
1976	Mil. lb.	857	758	912	897	910	1,077	1,045	1,115	1,125	1,094	1,021	928	11,739
1977	Mil. lb.	849												
Total red meat, carcass weight[2]														
1975	Mil. lb.	3,315	2,880	2,959	3,089	2,873	2,832	2,842	2,860	3,088	3,339	2,978	3,159	36,213
1976	Mil. lb.	3,266	2,907	3,513	3,111	2,924	3,150	3,048	3,350	3,467	3,496	3,453	3,366	39,056
1977		3,273												
Table 25.—Chicken certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weight														
Young														
1975	Mil. lb.	646.2	570.2	616.6	688.3	690.1	683.1	714.2	680.5	684.9	739.8	560.7	691.4	7,9[illegible]
1976	Mil. lb.	712.3	632.3	771.9	742.5	748.4	825.9	766.0	805.2	800.3	769.5	699.2	716.8	8,987
1977	Mil. lb.	713.8												
Mature														
1975	Mil. lb.	47.8	39.1	43.6	44.6	37.0	39.0	34.5	34.0	38.7	42.2	31.7	40.5	473
1976	Mil. lb.	44.1	42.2	46.4	48.9	34.4	41.1	38.6	38.0	42.6	39.6	34.9	40.4	491
1977	Mil. lb.	43.6												

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 23—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Table 25.—Chicken certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weights—Continued														
Total														
1975	Mil. lb.	694.0	609.4	660.2	732.9	727.0	722.1	748.7	714.6	723.5	782.0	592.4	732.0	8,439
1976	Mil. lb.	756.4	674.4	818.3	791.4	779.8	867.0	804.7	843.2	842.9	809.1	734.1	757.2	9,479
1977	Mil. lb.	757.4												
Table 26.—Turkey certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weights														
Fryer-roasters														
1975	Mil. lb.	7.0	6.9	7.5	7.7	6.9	7.2	8.3	7.0	6.8	8.8	8.2	7.0	89
1976	Mil. lb.	6.5	6.4	8.1	6.9	7.5	9.2	9.5	8.3	8.2	7.9	8.2	5.0	92
1977	Mil. lb.	3.2												
Young turkeys														
1975	Mil. lb.	56.8	39.9	45.8	60.5	73.6	128.3	181.3	194.7	221.1	248.3	211.9	150.1	1,612
1976	Mil. lb.	68.9	54.5	58.8	72.1	98.3	170.0	200.3	233.1	243.3	248.4	252.8	141.2	1,842
1977	Mil. lb.	66.1												
Old turkeys														
1975	Mil. lb.	1.1	.3	1.2	.6	1.5	2.9	3.7	1.6	1.0	.4	.1	.3	15
1976	Mil. lb.	.8	.8	1.8	.9	.7	3.1	4.1	2.4	1.3	.3	.4	.3	17
1977	Mil. lb.	1.3												
Total turkeys														
1975	Mil. lb.	64.9	47.1	54.4	68.7	81.9	138.4	193.2	203.3	229.0	257.5	220.2	157.5	1,716
1976	Mil. lb.	76.3	61.7	68.6	79.9	106.5	182.2	213.9	243.8	252.8	256.6	261.5	146.4	1,950
1977	Mil. lb.	70.5												
Table 27.—Ducks, and total poultry certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weights														
Ducks														
1975	Mil. lb.	2.5	2.2	2.8	4.7	5.0	5.8	5.3	4.6	4.8	4.7	3.7	3.9	50
1976	Mil. lb.	3.2	2.7	3.4	4.7	5.2	6.4	5.9	6.0	5.9	5.3	4.9	4.2	58
1977	Mil. lb.	3.4												
Total poultry														
1975	Mil. lb.	761.6	658.7	717.6	806.5	814.1	866.5	947.5	922.7	957.5	1,045.6	817.7	893.5	10,210
1976	Mil. lb.	836.0	739.0	890.4	876.1	891.7	1,055.8	1,024.7	1,093.2	1,101.9	1,072.5	1,001.9	908.2	11,491
1977	Mil. lb.	831.5												
Table 28.—Chicken and turkey inspected for further processing in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weights														
Chicken														
Young														
1975	Mil. lb.	39.6	35.6	38.4	41.9	40.9	47.3	48.2	48.0	50.3	55.3	45.4	49.7	541
1976	Mil. lb.	51.8	47.5	55.6	53.6	52.2	61.0	54.4	56.3	54.0	54.3	50.0	52.8	643
1977	Mil. lb.	50.5												
Mature														
1975	Mil. lb.	31.2	24.4	25.6	29.1	21.8	28.3	25.5	27.7	31.9	38.3	34.1	38.2	356
1976	Mil. lb.	43.2	39.6	44.7	40.0	36.8	32.3	26.9	35.5	32.3	33.8	34.0	36.8	436
1977	Mil. lb.	37.8												
Total														
1975	Mil. lb.	70.8	60.0	64.0	71.0	62.7	75.6	73.8	75.7	82.2	93.7	79.6	87.9	897
1976	Mil. lb.	95.0	87.1	100.3	93.6	89.0	93.3	81.3	91.8	86.3	88.1	84.0	89.6	1,079
1977	Mil. lb.	88.2												
Turkey														
1975	Mil. lb.	45.8	40.4	44.7	49.1	45.3	69.1	99.1	107.4	111.8	129.1	98.9	67.2	908
1976	Mil. lb.	47.9	44.4	54.5	49.1	69.0	97.9	113.6	124.9	132.1	133.9	119.0	67.5	1,054
1977	Mil. lb.	50.2												
Table 32.—Per capita consumption of shell eggs														
Shell equivalent:														
1975	do.	22.0	19.4	21.9	20.4	20.6	19.2	20.1	20.6	19.8	20.8	20.8	21.6	247
1976	do.	21.8	19.8	20.6	19.8	20.6	19.3	20.2	20.2	19.5	20.4	19.7		
1977	do.													
Tables 34-41.—Egg prices: Monthly average price per dozen for shell eggs														
United States, received by farmers[3]														
1975	do.	57.2	54.1	54.1	47.4	47.1	45.6	46.5	50.8	55.8	52.9	58.2	64.1	52.8
1976	do.	62.2	59.8	54.1	53.4	55.5	53.8	55.5	60.6	62.1	60.8	65.3	69.5	59.4
1977	do.	65.1	66.2											
Grade A large eggs in retail stores[4 5]														
1975	do.	84.2	83.9	74.9	77.2	70.6	66.9	70.6	73.7	79.9	77.7	78.1	80.1	77.0
1976	do.	89.1	90.1	78.2	77.6	75.2	74.4	80.0	85.7	89.0	87.6	87.3	94.6	84.1
1977	do.	96.7												

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 23—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 34-41.—Monthly average price per dozen shell eggs—Continued														
Iowa, received by farmers														
Buyer quality and volume incentive														
Large														
1975	do.	50.25	43.34	45.26	36.09	36.86	36.90	39.27	44.64	49.43	45.12	51.05	58.52	44.73
1976	do.	56.21	50.26	44.91	44.20	45.80	45.64	50.31	56.50	56.50	55.68	60.98	66.50	52.79
1977	do.	62.45												
Medium														
1975	do.	44.32	37.21	37.38	30.48	26.26	25.90	27.89	34.02	39.31	38.55	42.95	53.25	36.46
1976	do.	48.93	43.63	34.78	35.43	39.42	37.52	40.57	45.84	47.71	46.53	55.57	60.52	44.70
1977	do.	56.67												
Price to volume buyers[4]														
14 Metro areas:														
Large														
1975	do.	67.82	62.49	64.24	55.78	55.37	54.88	56.76	62.28	66.85	62.37	69.08	75.81	62.81
1976	do.	73.30	67.42	62.40	62.05	63.27	62.30	67.38	72.22	73.52	71.44	76.66	82.52	69.54
1977	do.	78.74												
Los Angeles, Grade AA:														
Large														
1975	do.	68.32	68.71	68.55	58.74	60.26	58.50	55.73	61.64	66.78	63.74	70.00	75.48	64.70
1976	do.	75.33	69.00	66.96	66.36	65.75	66.04	69.86	75.00	74.57	68.97	73.67	78.42	70.83
1977	do.	78.29												
Medium														
1975	do.	67.32	67.71	65.67	53.85	54.55	50.50	49.27	52.74	59.78	60.93	69.00	74.48	60.48
1976	do.	74.33	66.56	62.92	62.91	62.50	60.86	59.71	66.23	69.57	63.39	70.19	76.15	66.36
1977	do.	76.81												
New York, wholesale prices, white														
Large, 75 percent A														
1975	do.	62.18	55.44	59.24	50.17	49.26	50.55	52.59	58.21	61.56	56.65	65.67	71.85	57.78
1976	do.	68.44	60.55	56.78	55.44	58.38	58.83	63.06	68.56	69.19	67.50	75.19	78.17	65.01
1977	do.	75.06												
Medium														
1975	do.	57.75	50.58	53.24	46.18	40.76	41.43	42.58	48.28	53.07	53.61	59.42	70.50	51.45
1976	do.	64.22	57.94	49.56	49.50	53.88	50.94	55.39	60.83	60.33	61.87	71.94	74.94	59.28
1977	do.	71.19												
Midwest, paid delivered[5]														
Large														
1975	do.	66.20	59.62	61.38	53.25	53.20	52.75	55.20	60.50	65.25	60.90	67.75	74.50	60.88
1976	do.	72.75	66.25	60.75	59.85	62.31	61.12	65.85	71.44	72.12	70.20	76.00	81.60	68.35
1977	do.	78.50												
Medium														
1975	do.	62.00	54.88	55.50	49.50	45.20	44.25	45.60	50.50	56.38	56.60	61.00	72.50	54.49
1976	do.	68.30	62.62	53.00	52.60	56.88	53.94	56.65	62.25	63.75	63.20	72.50	77.60	61.94
1977	do.	74.00												
Table 42.—Egg prices: Monthly average price per pound for frozen egg products														
New York and Philadelphia														
Frozen egg														
Whole egg, light colored														
1975	do.	36.06	33.81	32.48	32.72	37.94	37.59	38.38	39.80	42.31	41.39	42.16	41.79	38.04
1976	do.	41.54	42.75	42.36	40.59	41.65	42.78	43.94	47.23	52.69	51.87	54.02	52.56	46.16
1977	do.	50.03												
White														
1975	do.	17.57	16.97	16.41	16.38	18.75	20.44	21.38	22.27	23.11	22.69	22.94	22.92	20.15
1976	do.	22.39	22.59	22.64	22.15	23.98	25.35	26.53	28.64	31.92	32.33	34.02	34.00	27.21
1977	do.	32.22												
Yolks, light colored, sugared,														
43 percent solids														
1975	do.	60.39	64.69	60.69	57.69	60.58	61.75	62.69	64.72	67.69	67.42	67.94	68.11	64.45
1976	do.	67.50	67.78	67.34	65.35	66.33	67.30	69.11	75.28	83.49	83.60	84.16	82.27	73.29
1977	do.	79.27												
Tables 44-47.—Average broiler prices per pound														
Liveweight														
United States, at farm														
1975	do.	23.8	24.3	23.5	23.2	24.6	27.6	29.7	29.1	29.6	28.5	27.0	24.0	26.2
1976	do.	24.3	25.2	24.4	23.7	24.7	24.3	25.4	24.3	23.1	20.9	19.3	19.3	23.2
1977	do.	21.5	24.0											

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 23—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 44-47.—Average broiler prices per pound—Continued														
Broilers, weighted average, delivered to major areas[8]														
9-City average[9]														
1975	do.	41.64	41.37	40.72	40.06	42.88	48.05	51.20	49.96	49.66	47.73	45.82	41.79	45.07
1976	do.	41.89	42.68	41.93	41.00	42.07	42.11	43.16	41.61	39.72	36.45	34.92	35.00	40.21
1977	do.	38.78												
Chicago														
1975	do.	42.8	40.9	40.2	39.8	42.3	46.9	50.9	49.6	49.6	47.2	45.6	41.7	44.8
1976	do.	41.7	42.6	41.6	40.9	42.0	41.7	43.3	41.4	39.8	36.2	34.9	35.0	40.1
1977	do.	38.7												
New York														
1975	do.	41.6	41.3	40.3	39.7	42.0	47.2	51.4	49.6	49.7	47.6	45.2	40.6	44.7
1976	do.	41.6	41.9	41.3	40.8	41.8	41.6	42.8	41.4	39.6	36.0	34.2	34.2	39.8
1977	do.	38.0												
Los Angeles														
1975	do.	43.4	42.5	42.0	42.0	44.2	48.0	52.2	51.0	50.9	48.9	47.2	43.3	46.3
1976	do.	43.4	44.4	43.7	42.2	43.0	42.6	44.4	43.0	40.9	38.0	36.6	36.9	41.6
1977	do.	40.7												
Frying chicken in retail stores[4]														
1975	do.	59.3	58.6	58.8	57.6	57.9	61.5	68.3	68.6	69.9	66.9	66.5	65.5	63.3
1976	do.	63.6	61.4	60.8	60.7	59.4	62.0	62.6	60.7	59.4	56.7	54.4	54.3	59.7
1977	do.	54.6												
Chicken breasts, in retail stores[4]														
1975	do.	102.3	103.4	102.9	101.3	103.0	107.2	116.7	117.1	118.0	116.1	115.8	115.3	109.9
1976	do.	112.3	111.8	109.3	109.6	110.0	111.8	113.7	111.9	110.4	107.0	106.0	106.5	101.6
1977	do.	107.0												
Tables 50-54.—Average turkey prices per pound														
Liveweight[3]														
U.S., at farm														
1975	do.	32.4	31.2	30.7	29.4	31.1	32.7	34.4	35.7	36.3	36.4	36.7	36.2	33.6
1976	do.	33.6	32.1	32.5	31.6	32.0	31.4	31.2	30.9	30.5	30.7	30.8	33.3	31.7
1977	do.	32.4	32.5											
Turkeys in retail stores[4]														
1975	do.	69.2	71.6	70.4	69.0	69.1	70.9	71.4	74.5	75.5	76.7	77.4	75.8	72.6
1976	do.	76.6	75.0	73.5	74.4	74.1	74.7	73.9	74.4	72.9	72.8	71.9	70.4	73.7
1977	do.	70.0												
Wholesale frozen (average f.o.b. or equivalent)														
New York:														
Young hens, 8-16 pounds														
1975	do.	51.6	46.9	47.3	48.3	51.6	53.4	56.0	58.0	57.2	58.1	57.3	52.6	53.2
1976	do.	47.1	49.7	51.7	48.2	48.9	47.6	49.5	48.1	48.0	47.8	48.4	50.6	49.6
1977	do.	48.7												
Young toms, 14-20 pounds														
1975	do.	49.1	46.0	43.7	43.3	46.9	49.6	52.7	56.2	57.0	57.2	56.7	54.4	51.8
1976	do.	46.8	46.1	49.8	49.4	50.8	47.8	48.5	47.9	46.8	46.9	49.6	54.0	48.7
1977	do.	50.9												
Paid at seller's dock, frozen														
New York														
Hens, 8-16 pounds														
1975	do.	57.5	50.2	57.2	52.3	55.3	57.0	59.3	61.2	61.2	61.2	61.2	57.9	57.0
1976	do.	51.8	51.8	55.3	52.8	52.9	51.4	52.2	52.0	51.6	51.2	51.7	54.8	52.4
1977	do.	51.9												
Toms, heaviest weights quoted														
1975	do.	59.0	56.7	55.0	52.0	52.6	56.5	59.5	61.8	64.3	66.8	69.9	70.0	60.3
1976	do.	69.0	69.0	69.9	70.0	70.6	71.0	71.0	71.0	71.0	71.0	72.8	73.0	70.8
1977	do.	72.5												
Chicago														
Hens, 12-14 pounds														
1975	do.	58.7	52.2	50.5	50.6	53.3	54.7	57.1	58.8	58.5	59.3	60.5	57.0	55.9
1976	do.	51.2	50.0	53.5	51.1	50.8	50.2	51.0	50.4	49.7	48.6	50.4	52.9	50.9
1977	do.	50.6												
Toms, heaviest weights quoted														
1975	do.	57.0	56.7	55.2	55.0	55.0	56.0	57.0	60.3	62.1	65.1	67.2	68.0	59.6
1976	do.	68.0	68.0	67.8	68.4	69.4	70.0	70.0	69.6	69.6	70.0	70.2	70.5	69.3
1977	do.	70.5												
Tables 57-60.—Prices paid for poults, poultry feed, and feed ingredients; and product-feed price ratios														
All poults each														
1975	do.	68.7	69.5	70.1	70.0	70.2	71.0	73.9	70.6	70.4	68.6	67.6	68.8	69.9
1976	do.	68.9	69.6	70.5	70.5	70.5	70.2	71.3	69.8	68.5	67.7	66.4	67.1	69.3
1977	do.	67.9	70.6											

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 23—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 57-60.—Price paid for poults, poultry feed, and feed ingredients; and product-feed price ratios—Continued														
Feed per ton														
Laying feed														
1975	do.	160	151	143	146	145	144	145	150	149	148	143	143	147
1976	do.	143	143	145	144	146	156	162	158	159	154	151	153	151
1977	do.	156	161											
Broiler grower feed														
1975	do.	176	167	161	164	161	162	161	163	164	164	158	160	163
1976	do.	158	160	160	159	161	172	181	177	179	170	169	174	168
1977	do.	174	178											
Turkey grower feed														
1975	do.	178	168	161	165	164	165	163	168	170	170	164	165	167
1976	do.	165	165	165	162	165	178	187	181	181	177	177	179	174
1977	do.	182	186											
Corn, Chicago No. 2 yellow (per bushel)														
1975	do.	309	300	296	304	288	291	286	317	301	276	264	259	291
1976	do.	262	270	268	268	284	296	296	287	277	249	233	244	270
1977	do.													
Soybean meal, 49-50 percent, Decatur (per ton, bulk)														
1975	do.	138	127	126	132	129	140	134	144	144	136	127	132	134
1976	do.	136	139	136	136	162	200	208	187	192	182	193	213	174
1977	do.													
Product-feed price ratios														
Broiler[19]														
1975	do.	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.8	3.1	3.4	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.0	3.2
1976	do.	3.1	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.8
1977	do.	2.5	2.7											
Turkey[14]														
1975	do.	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.9	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.0
1976	do.	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.7
1977	do.	2.5	3.5											
Egg[12]														
1975	do.	7.2	7.2	7.6	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.4	6.8	7.5	7.1	8.1	9.0	7.2
1976	do.	8.7	8.4	7.5	7.4	7.6	6.9	6.9	7.7	7.8	7.9	8.6	9.1	7.9
1977	do.	8.3	8.2											
Tables 61-62.—Chicks hatched by types and pullet chicks placed														
Chicks hatched														
Broiler-type														
1975	Mil.	253.7	239.0	278.1	275.3	285.1	274.7	270.8	268.3	247.6	249.9	254.6	271.9	3,169.1
1976	Mil.	278.1	267.9	309.1	309.5	319.5	307.7	302.3	294.0	270.0	267.2	266.9	281.8	3,474.0
1977	Mil.	293.3												
Egg-type														
1975	Mil.	34.8	36.6	45.4	47.4	48.0	40.9	38.1	34.9	33.9	34.8	28.4	30.7	453.8
1976	Mil.	35.7	39.2	49.1	50.8	47.6	41.9	38.0	38.1	37.4	36.5	36.1	36.1	486.4
1977	Mil.	40.2												
Pullet chicks placed domestically for broiler hatchery supply flocks[13]														
Total														
1975	Thou.	2,211	2,134	2,754	2,492	2,874	2,459	2,466	2,645	2,647	2,449	2,306	2,379	29,816
1976	Thou.	2,423	2,556	2,907	3,104	3,164	2,648	2,797	2,836	2,584	2,668	2,434	2,547	32,668
1977	Thou.	2,585												
Cumulation relevant to breeder flock[14]														
1975	Thou.	20,632	20,585	20,490	20,161	19,828	19,093	18,600	18,057	17,666	18,161	18,365	19,079	
1976	Thou.	19,397	19,692	20,035	20,471	20,786	20,338	20,225	19,774	19,871	20,312	20,771	21,288	
1977	Thou.	21,487	21,978	22,435	22,596	22,708	22,235	21,678	21,099					
1978	Thou.													
Table 63.—Poults hatched by breeds														
Poults hatched														
Light breeds														
1975	Thou.	1,202	1,367	1,406	1,657	1,526	1,400	1,524	1,319	747	1,008	1,244	1,518	15,918
1976	Thou.	1,794	1,438	1,909	1,978	1,804	1,824	1,880	1,163	576	1,009	1,161	1,218	17,754
1977	Thou.	1,203												
Total heavy breeds														
1975	Thou.	7,487	10,657	14,719	16,960	17,568	16,140	12,734	7,329	3,590	3,457	4,147	6,370	121,158
1976	Thou.	8,719	12,278	16,566	17,770	18,367	17,748	13,474	6,968	3,676	3,871	4,855	6,371	130,663
1977	Thou.	9,568												
All breeds														
1975	Thou.	8,689	12,024	16,125	18,617	19,094	17,540	14,258	8,648	4,337	4,465	5,391	7,888	137,076
1976	Thou.	10,513	13,716	18,475	19,748	20,171	19,572	15,354	8,131	4,252	4,880	6,016	7,589	148,417
1977	Thou.	10,771												

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 23—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Table 66.—Cold storage holdings of shell and frozen eggs, first of month														
All frozen eggs														
1975	Mil. lb.	54.2	52.1	51.0	46.7	42.8	44.7	47.8	52.1	51.9	51.0	46.6	42.2	
1976	Mil. lb.	36.3	31.7	28.7	29.3	29.4	29.1	30.3	31.6	31.0	28.7	29.7	25.5	
977	Mil. lb.	26.1	26.4											
Shell eggs														
1975	1,000 cs.	36	32	48	32	26	68	82	84	80	72	55	40	
1976	1,000 cs.	22	14	21	26	26	22	25	58	66	46	34	25	
1977	1,000 cs.	28	23											
Shell equivalent of all eggs														
1975	1,000 cs.	1,408	1,350	1,340	1,214	1,110	1,200	1,291	1,402	1,393	1,364	1,235	1,108	
1976	1,000 cs.	940	818	747	767	771	759	792	858	850	772	787	670	
1977	1,000 cs.	689	693											
Tables 68-69.—Cold storage holdings of poultry, first of the month														
Total frozen														
Turkey														
1975	Mil. lb.	275.0	267.1	239.9	207.3	180.2	162.7	193.2	248.6	328.3	409.8	472.4	286.2	
1976	Mil. lb.	195.2	186.8	159.9	140.0	114.5	120.5	177.8	262.0	369.9	457.7	509.0	299.0	
1977	Mil. lb.	203.4	193.0											
Chicken														
Hens														
1975	Mil. lb.	54.0	55.7	55.6	56.6	59.1	57.1	56.9	54.3	52.9	49.1	44.7	41.6	
1976	Mil. lb.	39.2	34.7	31.4	29.4	32.3	30.1	34.3	36.8	38.5	37.9	40.5	40.3	
1977	Mil. lb.	42.1	40.9											
Broilers, fryers and roasters														
1975	Mil. lb.	37.2	31.5	32.9	28.0	27.8	24.1	22.6	21.7	22.5	22.7	21.9	21.5	
1976	Mil. lb.	22.3	20.2	19.4	18.9	19.0	17.4	20.0	25.7	26.6	24.3	24.3	29.1	
1977	Mil. lb.	32.9	28.9											
Tables 70-71.—Exports of fresh or frozen poultry														
Broilers														
1975	Thou. lb.	10,268	9,841	9,903	11,620	12,595	11,858	10,851	11,931	10,615	13,046	11,483	13,720	137,731
1976	Thou. lb.	16,263	12,881	16,254	17,226	23,950	24,940	20,438	339,409	26,048	26,556	28,906	34,537	287,408
1977	Thou. lb.													
Turkeys														
1975	Thou. lb.	1,384	2,551	2,979	2,952	2,851	3,807	4,389	4,023	5,293	7,139	5,368	4,507	47,244
1976	Thou. lb.	5,135	5,903	7,719	3,958	3,864	6,267	4,060	4,513	4,923	6,327	6,268	6,152	65,170
1977	Thou. lb.													
Tables 72-75.—USDA contracts to purchase chicken, and turkey														
Young chickens, ready-to-cook wt.														
1975	Mil. lb.	3.8	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	7.3	6.8	7.0	5.2	30.0
1976	Mil. lb.	7.6	7.3	8.4	---	---	---	---	4.5	5.2	3.3	6.2	4.6	47.1
1977	Mil. lb.	4.9	3.2											
Canned boned chicken														
1975	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	---	---	2.3	---	---	1.3	1.9	2.3	7.3	15.1
1976	Mil. lb.	5.0	2.9	2.4	---	---	---	---	1.3	.4	4.1	2.1	1.8	20.0
1977	Mil. lb.	2.7												
Canned boney turkey														
1975	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1976	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,702	518	740	---	2,960
1977	Mil. lb.	---												
Turkey, ready-to-cook wt.														
1975	Mil. lb.	2.2	---	---	---	---	---	---	2.1	6.9	10.4	---	---	21.6
1976	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	6.6	13.9	14.4	---	---	34.9
1977	Mil. lb.	---												

[1] Chicken and turkey meat, excludes slaughter on farms. [2] Excludes farm slaughter, lard and rendered pork fat. [3] Price reported as a price at mid-month. [4] Reported by Bureau of Labor Statistics. Prices are collected on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of the week that includes the first Tuesday of the month. [5] Includes price for Grade AA eggs in Anchorage, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, and Seattle, and Grade AA and ungraded eggs in some small cities. [6] Weighted average price to volume buyers for Consumer Grade A white eggs in cartons delivered to store door. [7] Prices paid by first receivers for cartoned Grade A eggs delivered FOB Midwestern cities. Prior to January 1974, reported as average price paid delivered to Chicago, loose, white, minimum 80 percent A. [8] Truckiot sales of U.S. Grade A and plant grade ready-to-cook, ice-packed broiler-fryers. [9] Computed by weighting the city averages by their metropolitan area populations. The 9 cities are: Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis and San Francisco. [10] Pounds of broiler grower equal in value to 1 lb. of broiler liveweight. [11] Pounds of turkey grower equal in value to 1 lb. of turkey liveweight. [12] Pounds of laying feed equal in value to 1 dozen eggs. [13] Placements reported by leading breeders. [14] Sum of domestic placements 7-14 months previous.

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PES-293 MARCH 1977

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